

DESTIN - 30A - FORT WALTON BEACH... WHAT THE LOCALS READ

FREE

The Beachcomber

Dec. 15, 2016-Jan. 11, 2017 • www.beachcomberdestin.com • Volume 16, Issue 25

What We Hope 2017 Brings

Nikki Hedrick's
Fave Gigs of
2016

The Year in
Dining
By Bruce Collier

Fashion Star Cayce Collins

The Retro
Videogame Craze

Live Music
Calendar

Where to Ring in the New Year

James Garrett's
John Denver
Tribute Show

Carl Hiaasen on
Pitbull

Chef Jack
McGuckin



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SPECIAL THANKS
Matthew Blessinger and Jessica Kelsh
Tamela Hayes
Tim Morinelli
Jill Tanner

The Beachcomber is published bi-weekly with a special year-end month long edition by The Beachcomber Inc., P.O. Box 5707, Destin, FL 32540-5707. Telephone 850-650-9940. Fax (does anyone still fax!?) 850-650-5475. www.beachcomberdestin.com.

Reader submissions are welcome. Due to the huge volume we receive, please accept our apologies if we do not respond right away.

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Gator
By Juan Francisco Adaro
adaroart.com

Opening Remarks

Too Many People Looking Back

We'd rather look forward than look back, because as the great poet Howard Jones once said, "Things can only get better."

Speaking of which, how did this guy get passed over for the Nobel Prize for Literature in favor of Bob Dylan?

There were many highlights in 2016, not the least of which was the Beachcomber Music Awards in March, held for the second and final time at AJ's in Destin. Unless the Morgans buy them out.

The Destin Seafood Festival remains one of the highlights of early fall, stretching across the Destin Harbor and offering pedestrians the option of walking by the fishing boats or the video karaoke and wine ice cream kiosks.

The memorial service for musician Kenny Oliverio on Grayton Beach was a sad and beautiful occasion. I didn't recognize Bryan Kennedy without his hat. I ran into Kenny's Dread Clampitt bandmate Balder Saunders

at Pandora's (does anyone remember Pandora's?) later on and couldn't get words out of my mouth.

The Franko Fest fundraiser for our longtime pal Franko "Washboard" Jackson at Trebeache in Santa Rosa Beach was a great coming together in support of the Beachcomber Music Hall of Famer's liver transplant. I was also very happy that I sold a copy of *Washboard Jackson's Greatest Hits* when I filled in for a young lady at the merchandise table.

I got to see and hear a few talented new musicians, catch up with some old favorites, even got to play a song with the great Hotel Oscar frontman Mose Wilson.

As *Beachcomber* Editor, I've taken advantage of the opportunity to put Juan Francisco Adaro on our cover as often as possible. He and Brooke just had a baby, so stop by his Grayton Beach gallery and spend lots of money. And if you're an artist not currently on our radar, get in



Beachcomber Editor Chris Manson and Beachcomber Publisher Charles Morgan III enjoy the Destin Christmas Parade. Charles has served as Grand Marshal on several occasions, while Chris never has and will probably never be asked to.

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Fort Walton Beach

The Florida Lottery recently announced that Patricia Sowell of Fort Walton Beach claimed a top prize in the \$5,000,000 Gold Rush Doubler Scratch-Off game at Florida Lottery Headquarters in Tallahassee. She chose to receive her winnings as a one-time, lump-sum payment of \$3,725,000.

Sowell purchased her winning ticket from Circle K, located at 65 Miracle Street Parkway Southeast in Fort Walton Beach. The retailer will receive a \$10,000 bonus commission for selling the winning Scratch-Off ticket.

The \$20 game features six top prizes of \$5 million, 30 prizes of \$1 million, and more than \$752 million in total cash prizes. This game offers more than 16.8 million winning tickets, and overall odds of winning are one in 2.99.

Scratch-Off games are an important part of the Lottery’s portfolio of games, comprising approximately 65 percent of ticket sales and generating more than \$734 million for the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund (EETF) in fiscal year 2015-16.



- flalottery.com Our great, great friend Patricia Sowell from Fort Walton Beach.

Seagrove Beach

30A TV aired the 2nd Annual Emerald Coast Children’s Advocacy Center (ECCAC) Telethon broadcasting live last week from 723 Whiskey Bravo in Seagrove Beach. The telethon benefited the two ECCAC locations in Niceville and the Pierce Family Children’s Advocacy Center in DeFuniak Springs.

Beachcomber Music Award winner David Seering (Best Male Vocalist, 2008-09) hosted the telethon. He was particularly moved interviewing young Isabella Rose, who had a life altering experience when she was seven and her family turned to ECCAC for help.

Isabella is now a vibrant 13-year-old who touts her positive and helpful experience with ECCAC. She’s quite the singer, too. In fact, Seering asked her to sing on the telethon, which she very capably did. He also asked her to perform a song with him at ECCAC’s March 11 annual signature fundraising gala, and she agreed.

“I want to bring awareness and let people know I am in a good place with my past because of what ECCAC did for me and my family,” said Isabella.

“It’s children like Isabella who shine a light in our hearts—it is why we do what we do,” said ECCAC CEO Julie Hurst. “To see how far she has come reinforces the work of our therapists, law enforcement and others that help to make a difference in the lives of children who have experienced a challenging time in their lives. Our thanks go to all the telethon viewers and their donations to support the center and our kids.”

With the purpose of creating awareness and raising funds for ECCAC, the telethon featured interviews with locals, entertainment, and information about how viewers can make a difference. ECCAC’s board

of directors were on hand answering phones and taking donations.

In the spirit of giving, 723 Whiskey Bravo owners Skip and Victoria Moore donated \$1,000 of the restaurant’s profits the day of the telethon for the cause. Breaking last year’s amount raised, the telethon night raised over \$31,000, which included a generous donation of \$25,000 from the Walton County Sheriff’s Department.

Donations are still being accepted, the telethon will continue to be re-broadcast periodically through February and can be seen any time in its entirety on 30A TV’s website. Sponsors of the telethon were the Freeport Kiwanis, Silver Sands Premium Outlets, Julie Hurst, Emerald Coast Compounding Pharmacy and Insurance Zone.

Learn more at eccac.org.

- Kay Phelan



Beachcomber Music Award winner David Seering and Isabella Rose at the Emerald Coast Children’s Advocacy Center telethon. Photo submitted by Kay Phelan.



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EA/EO

Why Won't Florida Say What's in Pitbull's Secret File?

By Carl Hiaasen, Tribune Content Agency

Somewhere in Tallahassee, locked securely inside a government office, is an explosive, top-secret file that only a few select operatives have ever seen. It's so sensitive that even lawmakers haven't been allowed to peek at it.

These protected documents have nothing to do with an imminent ISIS threat, the Zika outbreak or the alarming rise in sea levels in Florida.

The subject of the confidential file is a 35-year-old man named Armando Christian Perez. Otherwise known as Pitbull, Mr. 305 himself.

Last year a state agency, Visit Florida, hired Pitbull to do some tourism promotion. Because the hip-hop star was paid with public funds, many people reasonably assumed that the details of his deal would be openly disclosed.

The state refused. Visit Florida CEO Will Secombe stated that Pitbull's contract included "proprietary trade

information" and therefore was exempt from a public-records request. Pitbull's contract ended in June, but the file remains unpublished to this day.

It's significant as part of a policy of secrecy that has annoyed incoming House Speaker Richard Corcoran, a fiscal conservative who wants to slash Visit Florida's funding. One touchy issue is how the agency spends state money.

Since 2009, Visit Florida's annual budget has swollen 169 percent, from roughly \$29 million to \$78 million.

In addition to recruiting Pitbull, Visit Florida sponsors a Le Mans racecar team and a soccer squad in England. The benefits to tourism that flow from such exotic marketing are difficult to quantify.

In August, Visit Florida made an exception to its closed-book ways by revealing that, for the second straight year, it has spent \$1.25 million to put its logo on soccer jerseys worn by the Fulham Football Club in London.

What's the connection to Florida? The owner of the Fulham soccer team is Shad Khan, a major donor to Gov. Rick Scott. Khan, who also owns the Jacksonville Jaguars, lives in Naples. Tourism officials say he gave them a really good deal on the logos. Maybe British soccer fans will flood to South Beach because of those enchanting jerseys, or maybe they'll come for the same simple reason that other tourists do—to escape the cold and the rain.

Maybe even more of them would come if we could persuade Pitbull to drive a Florida racecar around a soccer field a dozen times. It's impossible to know the true value of such promotions if we can't find out what they cost.

The governor insists all the big spending is paying off. Tourism jumped about 29 percent from 2009 to 2016, up from 82 million visitors a year to about 106 million. This rebound has coincided with the steady recovery of the U.S. economy, though Scott gives most of the credit to Visit Florida. But like another of his expensive pet projects—Enterprise

Florida, with its ludicrous giveaway incentives to lure corporations—Visit Florida is facing fire in the Legislature.

Nobody's been able to get a line-by-line accounting of how the tourism agency allocates its hefty budget. An audit initiated by the governor found no wrongdoing, but it urged Visit Florida to operate more transparently.

The deal with Pitbull got lots of attention because, well, it was Pitbull—and also because the terms were kept quiet. Florida has hired celebrities before, but taxpayers knew how much money was being shelled out.

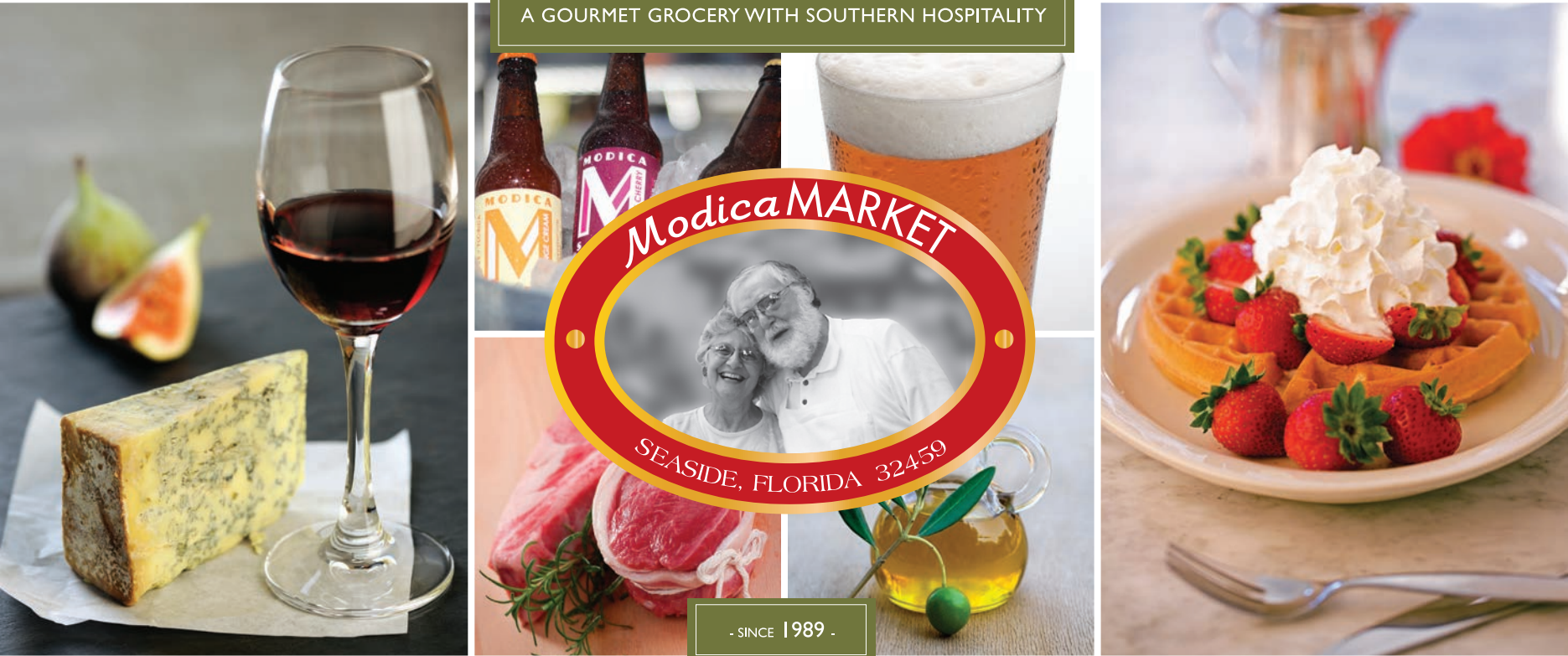
In the late 1970s, the citrus commission was paying Anita Bryant \$100,000 to sing the glories of orange juice (she lost the gig after campaigning to repeal a Miami-Dade gay-rights law). In 1994, the state cut a controversial \$1 million deal with Rush Limbaugh to rhapsodize about OJ on his radio show (he lost the gig after juice sales stalled).

Continued on page 42

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Art

In Their Own Words... Local Color Artists

We are a group of inventive creators at the beginning of our artistic journey, learning from one another.

On Fridays, we come together to provide a supportive atmosphere for artists of multiple genres to collaborate and broaden their horizons.

We enjoy the process of creating in a casual and supportive setting where there is no instruction, just an atmosphere of collegiality and sharing.

Consider joining us on Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon in the back room of the **Walton County Coastal Branch**



Library in Santa Rosa Beach, and enjoy the freedom of creating art as you follow your own whims and desires.

All are welcome to participate at no expense, and in whatever way fits your schedule.

Art

ART CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

ARTFUL THINGS, 1087 East John Sims Parkway, Niceville. Call 850-729-2600 for more info.

Tuesdays. Oil with Rosalyn O'Grady, 10 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m. Cost is \$20 per session plus supplies. Call Ros at 850-865-5343. rosalynogrady.com.

Wednesdays. Watercolor with Lou Kaunzinger, 10 a.m.-noon. Cost for four-week session is \$80 plus supplies. Call Lou at 850-897-1456.

Thursdays. Landscape Painting with Carol Ann Cain, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 per session plus supplies. Call Carol at 850-543-3575. carolanncain.com.

Fridays. Beginning Head Studies with Charlotte Arnold, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 per session plus supplies. Call Charlotte at 850-240-7888. CharlotteArnoldFineArt.com.

Saturdays. Kids' Drawing with Sarah Coleman, 10 a.m.-noon. For ages 11-15. Cost is \$25 per session plus supplies. Call 310-717-4302 for more info.

ARTS AND DESIGN SOCIETY (ADSO) Classes at the Art Center Gallery, Fort Walton Beach. More info at artsdesignsociety.org.

Mondays and Wednesdays. Clay and Pottery Open Studio, 9 a.m.-noon both days and 6:30-9 p.m. Mondays. Beginners welcome. Cost for morning classes with **Pat Basque** is \$12 (\$10 for ADSO members). Cost for Monday evening class with **Marcy Eady** is \$15 (\$12 for ADSO members). Materials and firing included.

Tuesdays. Art for Children Ages 6-12, 4-5:30 p.m. **Marcy Eady** teaches about the masters and their styles using principles of basic drawing, painting and sculpture. Media vary each week. Cost per month is \$70 (\$60 for ADSO members). All supplies included.

Tuesdays. Oil Painting with Dale Gauvin, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Learn the Chiaroscuro technique favored by the old masters. Cost is \$85 (\$70 for ADSO members).

Tuesdays. Open Studio, 7-9:30 p.m. Bring your own supplies (except clay—no clay, please) and work with other Beachcomberland artists. Cost is \$7 (\$5 for ADSO members).

Thursdays. Watercolor Painting with Pat Farwell, 9:30 a.m.-noon. Beginner through advanced. Bring your own supplies—list provided in the ADSO office. Cost is \$85 per month (\$70 for ADSO members).

Fridays. Open Studio, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Same as Tuesdays, but enter through the ADSO office, please.

EMERALD COAST GALLERY & GIFTS, Destin. Call 850-460-8644 to register for classes, and visit emeraldcoastartgallery.com for more info.

FULL CIRCLE GALLERY, 29 B Eglin Parkway, Fort Walton Beach. Call 850-362-8041 or visit fullcirclefwb.com for more info.

Thursdays. Pottery a la Carte, 6-8 p.m. Cost per session is \$35.

HH ARTS, 100 Beal Parkway SW, Fort Walton Beach. Call 850-218-2155 to register or get more info.

THE SHARD SHOP in the Shops of Grayton, Grayton Beach. Shard art is a Glass Collage technique of applying glass to painted canvas with resin holding it all together. Classes daily. Open Tue.-Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Adult classes Tue.-Fri., 10 a.m.-noon. Families (adults and kids) Tue., Weds., Fri., 1-3 p.m. After school kids' classes Thursdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Home school day Thursdays, 1-3 p.m. Open studio and walk-ins every Saturday.

Adult classes start at \$85, kids start at \$35. Sign up online at ShardShop.com or call 850-231-0544.

WALTON COUNTY COASTAL BRANCH LIBRARY, 437 Greenway Trail, Santa Rosa Beach.

Dec. 16. Holiday Art Class for Kids, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Children will utilize a variety of mixed media and recycled materials. Plus—stories and cooking. FREE. Call Dollie at 850-267-2809 to reserve a spot.

ART EVENTS

THROUGH DEC. 17. ARTS AND DESIGN SOCIETY (ADSO) ARTS AND CRAFTS CHRISTMAS MARKET AT THE ART CENTER GALLERY, FORT WALTON BEACH Unique gifts, including jewelry, paintings, photos and note cards created by ADSO members. Gallery hours are noon-4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1-4 p.m. Saturdays. artsdesignsociety.org.

THROUGH DEC. 23. ARTS AND CRAFTS CHRISTMAS MARKET AT HH ARTS, FORT WALTON BEACH Art, jewelry, ornaments, cards and more created by Beachcomberland artists and reasonably priced for gift giving. Open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The gallery is located at 100 Beal Parkway SW. Call 850-218-2155 for more info. NOTE: The gallery will be closed Dec. 24-Jan. 2, 2017.

THROUGH DEC. 27. KATHLEEN BROADERICK AT WALTON COUNTY COASTAL BRANCH LIBRARY, SANTA ROSA BEACH Broaderick's "Bonita" was featured on *The Beachcomber's* Oct. 20-Nov. 2 cover.

THROUGH DEC. 31. ADSO WINDOW GALLERY DISPLAY AT THE ART CENTER GALLERY, FORT WALTON BEACH The December spotlight shines on Gini Simpson, who works mostly in watercolors, but is pretty good with the oils and acrylics, too. artsdesignsociety.org.

THROUGH DEC. 31. DECEMBER ARTIST OF THE MONTH DOROTHY STARBUCK AT 45 CENTRAL WINE BAR, SEASIDE



More at fortyfivecentral.com and dorothystarbuck.com.

THROUGH DEC. 31. JOE HARPER AND HEATHER MITCHELL EXHIBITS AT DESTIN LIBRARY Photographer Harper has lived and worked in the Panhandle since 1968, while Hawaii native Mitchell recently returned to drawing after years in publishing, advertising and teaching. Call 850-837-8572 for more info.

THROUGH FEB. 25, 2017. JOAN VIENOT AT THE FOSTER GALLERY, SANDESTIN Vienot is one of 15 artists in the winter rotation at the Market Shops gallery managed by the Cultural Arts Alliance of Walton County. More at joanvienot.com.

OPENS JAN. 3, 2017. LOCAL COLOR ARTISTS AT SOUTH WALTON COASTAL BRANCH LIBRARY, SANTA ROSA BEACH More on page 8. The library is located at 437 Greenway Trail.

ART GALLERIES

ADARO ART is a new gallery with works from 2015 South Walton Artist of the Year Juan Francisco Adaro, as well as other well-known local and international artists. Located in the Uptown Shops of Grayton on Scenic Highway 30A next to Another Broken Egg Café. Open Tue.-Sun., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 51-1 Uptown Grayton Circle, Grayton Beach, 561- 985-5767. Email adaro.art@gmail.com for more info. www.adaro.art.com.

ARTFUL THINGS Original oils, watercolors and acrylics, as well as prints and note cards by local artists. Art classes, supplies and custom framing available. 1087 John Sims Pkwy., Niceville, 850-729-2600. www.artfulthings.net.

ARTS AND DESIGN SOCIETY Features art shows by local and regional artists. Open afternoons Tuesday through Saturday. Shows change monthly. Art classes and workshops in various media. 17 First Street SE, Fort Walton Beach. 850-244-1271. www.artsdesignsociety.org.

CARA ROY ARTWORKS Florida tropicals, watercolors, posters of all kinds, note cards, original artworks and gift items. Available at Fusion Art Glass Gallery in Seaside and Grand Boulevard at Sandestin. www.cararoyartworks.com.

EMERALD COAST GALLERY & GIFTS features a plethora of one-of-a-kind paintings, handcrafted jewelry, handmade furniture, glass art, prints, home décor and gifts from over 30 local and area artists. Check online at emeraldcoastartgallery.com for classes and workshop schedules. Classes are given by gallery owners Claire Gagne and Jennifer Viaene and other featured artists in the gallery. Classes include acrylic painting, watercolor, mosaic glass and shard glass. Come on in and have some fun! Gallery is located in the McGuire's Shopping Plaza in Destin between Boca Boutique and McGuire's Sushi. 850-460-8644.

FULL CIRCLE GALLERY AND STUDIO is a contemporary and inspirational art space. We feature the works of regional artists in our gallery and offer an array of art classes with award-winning artists. We also have Paint Your Own Pottery. Come get creative with us! Located at 29B Eglin Parkway SE, Fort Walton Beach, 850-362-8041. www.fullcirclefwb.com.

G & CO. GALLERY (formerly Geana's Art Gallery) Located in City Market, Destin. An exciting art gallery and full service frame and mirror shop offering a large selection of local, regional and international artists ranging from local photography to original fine art. Quality and value is second to none. We ship worldwide. 850-650-0779. www.GAndCoGallery.com.

HH ARTS is a new gallery offering works for sale from local artists in all mediums. There are many award-winning artists displayed in oil, acrylic, encaustic, collage, clay, handmade candles, and handmade jewelry designs in glass, leather and Victorian style. Studio space available for artists at reasonable rates. An outdoor area is also available for

plein aire painting or classes, with lighting and overhead covering. The wall space facing Third Street is being offered to artists for murals. There will be classes offered for children and adults. Located 100 Beal Parkway SW, Fort Walton Beach (three blocks off 98, across from Troy University). Open Tue.-Sat., 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. For more info, call 850-218-2155 and "like" HH Arts on Facebook.

MARY HONG GALLERY Located next to the Shard Shop in the Shops of Grayton. Mary Hong is the 2014 South Walton Artist of the Year and has been featured in over 10 publications, as well as on the Golf Channel's *Morning Drive Show* hosted by Matt Ginella. Mary's take on glass art incorporates the use of repurposed glass on painted canvas. She and her team offer classes at the Shard Shop located adjacent to her gallery. There is an extensive retail section full of thousands of pounds of glorious glass and art kits to take your ShardART on the go. We host parties and team events, too. Come break some glass with us! Open Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sundays, noon-6 p.m. 26 Logan Lane, Grayton Beach. 850-231-1416. MaryHongStudio.com.

MATTIE KELLY ART GALLERIES AT NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE The Arts Center Galleries at Northwest Florida State College in Niceville encompass two galleries showcasing 20 different international, national and regional exhibitions yearly, which are unique to this region. Viewing hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Visit www.mattiekellyartscenter.org or call 850-729-6044.

THE ZOO GALLERY Created 1979. Locally owned small business. We focus on quality, handcrafted work by hardworking artists. Our galleries showcase an eclectic range of curated artwork from all over the country, a jewelry collection like no other, plus unique clothing lines for women with soul. We keep a sense of wonder. We stand out from the herd. Located in Grayton Beach across from the Red Bar and in Grand Boulevard at Sandestin. #standoutfromtheherd thezoogallery.com

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Beachcomber Editor
Chris Manson with
Adaro Art mascot Salvador.



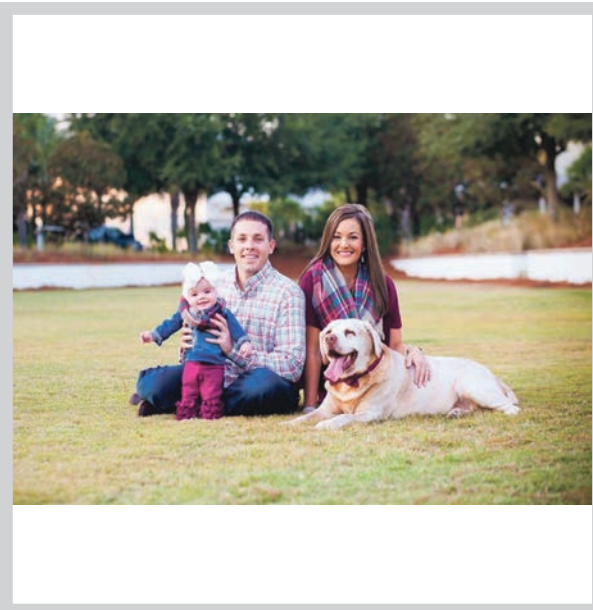
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Here, it's always
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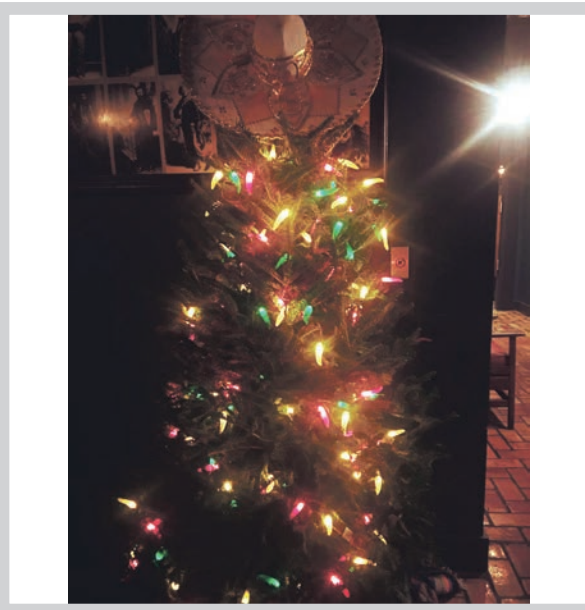
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A reminder that
this chilly winter
won't last forever.



@cheechatthebeach_30a

Cheech and his
two-leggers wish all of you
a Happy New Year.



@michellechongmank

La Paz Destin's
sombrero-topped tree.
Feliz Navidad, indeed!



@graytonseafoodco

Thanks for the recent
lunch invite, and sorry
we missed dessert.



[instagram.com/beachcomberdestin](https://www.instagram.com/beachcomberdestin)

The Beat Profiles* — James Garrett

HOME: Branson, Missouri. Originally from Los Angeles.

AGE: Old enough to not tell anybody.

PROFESSION: Performer-producer.

HOBBIES: Riding Harley-Davidson motorcycles with my dad. Drawing and painting.

LAST BOOK I READ: *Robert Redford: The Biography* by Michael Feeney Callan (2012). It's a great book. I read a lot of biographies about people of distinction, fun to read about how they got to where they are. I read about all kinds of people but mostly people in my business, show business.

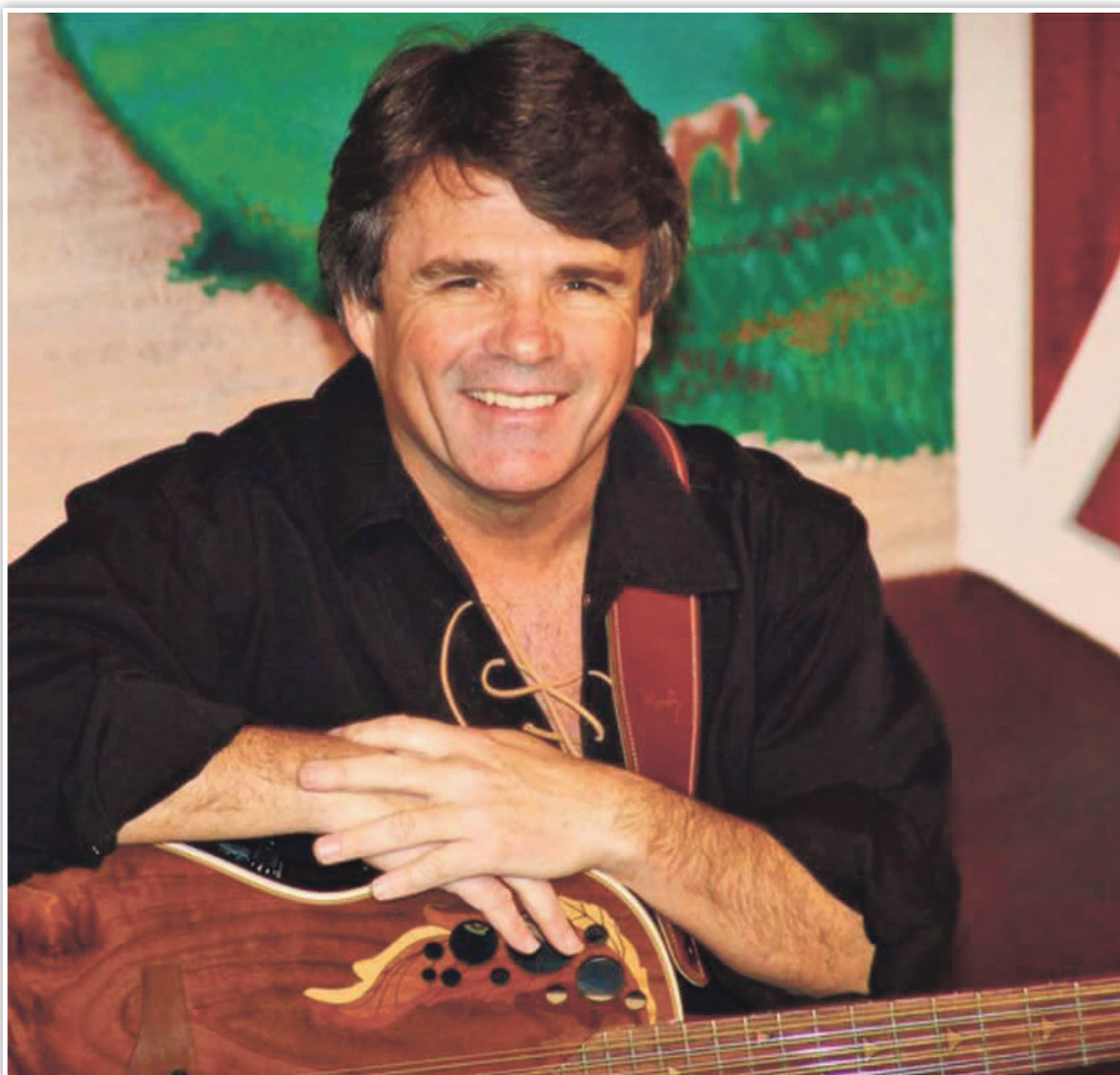
RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Winning the Terry Beene Show of the Year award in Branson, Missouri for the John Denver Tribute Show that I'm doing in Destin. We're calling it the Rocky Mountain Christmas show. It's an acoustic show with guitar, bass, fiddle and mandolin—and an Ozark Mountain hammer dulcimer, the same lineup John had when he first started touring. It will be mostly the John Denver hits—he had quite a few—sprinkled with Christmas songs that John did. I knew John, and I share stories behind the songs. My personal connection and insights have kept this show going for 10 years.

QUOTE: I can't tell you who said it, but... "Success is just an opportunity given to you by someone who believes in you."

PROFILE: I auditioned with a bluegrass band in Silver Dollar City in Branson when I was about 17. Singing and acoustic guitar—a balladeer, like John Denver was. After that, I opened shows for famous people and ended up getting a gig with the Kendalls ("Heaven's Just a Sin Away"). In fact, we had a hit on the country charts with John's "Leaving on a Jet Plane." The Kendalls were Royce and his daughter Jeannie. When Royce passed away in 1998, she asked me to sing her dad's parts, which was a real honor.

I've been based in Branson mostly, aside from touring. I decided to do a show in Branson so I wouldn't have to travel so much. I went into the only IMAX theater in Branson and gave the manager a CD of me singing John Denver songs, and three days later he offered me the opportunity to produce the show. In 10 years, we've won 18 awards, so that's a pretty good run. The beauty of Branson is getting off the tour bus. We get about eight million visitors every year. If you have a good show, you'll sell tickets. Which I hope to do in Destin!

When you're singing and touring with people who have hit records, you get to go backstage and hang out with people. I never did any shows with John, but when he was in the vicinity, I met him and we had a friendship over the years. My favorite songs are the ones that weren't



hits—turns out those were John's favorites, too—and, of course, "Take Me Home, Country Roads," "Rocky Mountain High," "Annie's Song." I've done these songs six days a week for nine months.

I asked John if he ever got tired of singing "Rocky Mountain High." And he said, "The audience makes it brand new every time you sing it." That's so true.

John influenced maybe two thirds of the people in Nashville now making records. He had a huge influence on country, folk...he was lots of things. It's amazing to be able to cross those genres. He was all over the place.

FAVORITE FREE ENTERTAINMENT PUBLICATION: *The Beachcomber!*

Catch James Garrett's Rocky Mountain Christmas show through Dec. 23 at the Bart Rockett Theatre in HarborWalk Village at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25. Discover more at jamesgarrettmusic.com.

* Inspired by the late, great *CREEM* magazine.

UPCOMING MUSIC RELEASES

DEC. 16

Tony Bennett, *Tony Bennett Celebrates 90*
The Candles, *Matter + Spirit*
Deathspell Omega, *Synarchy of Molten Bones*
Michael Giacchino, *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*
(Original Motion Picture Soundtrack)
The Kinks, *The Mono Collection*. 10-LP vinyl box set.
Brad Paisley, *Life Amplified World Tour: Live from WVU* (DVD/CD)
Rush, *2112 (40th Anniversary)* (2-CD plus DVD, Also on Vinyl)

DEC. 23

Boston, *Boston*. Vinyl reissue of the band's seminal debut album.

JAN. 1

Brian Eno, *Reflection*

JAN. 6

Chasing Safety, *Nomad*
Dropkick Murphys, *11 Short Stories of Pain & Glory*
Gone Is Gone, *Echolocation*
Nightwish, *Vehicle of Spirit* (DVD, Blu-ray)

Sources: pauseandplay.com, allmusic.com

Music > The Beachcomber's Record Roundup

Musicians - send your CDs, vinyl and/or cassettes to The Beachcomber, P.O. Box 5707, Destin, FL 32540-5707. Email MP3s and streaming links to chris@beachcomberdestin.com.

Childish Gambino

Awaken, My Love!

Glassnote Records



A surprising, sharp change in direction and a bold move for Childish Gambino that has yielded an amazing record. So get funky, be daring, and give this a well-deserved chance. It's innovative and retro in the same beat, a beautiful glimpse at a transitional period for a well-loved artist.

- Nikki Hedrick

Dizzy Gillespie & Friends

Concert of the Century - A Tribute to Charlie Parker

Justin Time Essentials



Even if you don't like Gillespie or Parker, this album is one of those that you at least gotta hear once. Aside from the Olympian roster (Gillespie, Milt

Jackson, Ray Brown, Philly Joe Jones, et.al.), this remastered recording of a "lost" 1980 Montreal tribute to Parker (who died in 1955) is jazz history. Once heard only as a bootleg LP, this version (based on rediscovered tapes) includes—wait, there's more!—two bonus tracks. Historical interest aside, these guys are the Washingtons and Jeffersons of our Jazz Republic. Pay close attention to Gillespie on "Stardust." Bird Lives, indeed.

- Bruce Collier

The Killers

Don't Waste Your Wishes

Island



Due to its lack of traditional holiday jingles, you may not realize this is a Christmas album right away. But you will know it's the Killers. That said, though their unique new wave sound is instantly recognizable on most tracks, the band dabbles in other genres, at one point almost crossing the line into country. The album, primarily a collection of already-released Killers holiday songs, hosts an impressive guest list ranging from Elton John to Dawes and Jimmy Kimmel. And the one new track is actually an old classic—"I'll Be Home For Christmas" with a spoken-word intro by Brandon Flowers. The holiday music is great, but it's even better having a reason to listen to the Killers again

- Joni Williams

Metallica

Hardwired...to Self-Destruct

Blackened



Love them or hate them, Metallica helped bring an entire movement to life. Lately, they have been more revered for their past laurels than recent releases. *Hardwired...* should help shift that. It returns the band to a more conventional version of themselves. It's easy to assume that this record is an attempt to reclaim relevancy in an ever-changing music industry, but whatever the influence for a more straightforward, heavy album might be, it's a welcome addition to Metallica's classic catalog. The deluxe three-disc version is worth the cost.

- Nikki Hedrick

The Rolling Stones

Blue & Lonesome

Interscope



It's no secret the Stones have long been influenced by blues music. For their 25th studio album they remind us all how much the style shaped them by covering a dozen heartfelt tunes. It's full of energy, and swaggering fun. It's not a groundbreaking Stones album, but a lively listen that shines a light on some blues names too often overlooked.

- Nikki Hedrick

Various Artists

Jazz Loves Disney

Decca

Jamie Cullum, Melody Gardot, Stacey Kent, Nikki Yanofsky, the Hot Sardines,



Gregory Porter, China Moses and assorted other artists clubbed together to record this baker's dozen of well-known tunes from Disney movies, in a variety of arrangements. The song list ranges from the classics ("When You Wish Upon a Star") to more contemporary stuff ("Let it Go"). It's high quality, though standard stuff mostly, kind of like the annual Christmas albums that all singers were once required to release. There are a few interesting tracks, though, including "Bibbidi Bobbidi Boo" and "Some Day My Prince Will Come" rendered in French.

- Bruce Collier

EDITOR'S PICKS - RECORDS OF THE YEAR

New Stuff

Bob Dylan, *Fallen Angels*
Will Hoge, *Solo & Live: December 2015*
Kris Kristofferson, *The Cedar Creek Sessions*
Charles Lloyd & the Marvels, *I Long to See You*
Maren Morris, *Hero*
Tig Notaro, *Boyish Girl Interrupted*
Margo Price, *Midwest Farmer's Daughter*
Sonny Rollins, *Holding the Stage: Road Shows Vol. 4*
Daphne Willis, *Come Together*
Tommy Womack, *Namaste*

Old Stuff

Beastie Boys, *Licensed to Ill*
The Beatles, *Live at the Hollywood Bowl*
Big Bill Broonzy, *Sings Folk Songs*
Phil Collins, *Face Value, No Jacket Required, ...But Seriously...* (Deluxe Editions)
Steve Earle, *Guitar Town (30th Anniversary Deluxe Edition)*
Kris Kristofferson, *The Complete Monument & Columbia Albums Collection*
Van Morrison, *...It's Too Late to Stop Now... Volumes II, III & IV*
Gretchen Peters, *The Essential Gretchen Peters*
Otis Redding, *Complete & Unbelievable... The Otis Redding Dictionary of Soul*
Wake Up You! The Rise and Fall of Nigerian Rock, Vol. 1

- Chris Manson

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Nikki Hedrick's Favorite Live Music Moments of 2016

"Life can become hectic, and it's hard to do everything we would like to do," says our fearless music correspondent. "Live music can remind us to slow down and let our hair down, and how at the end of the day, we are all very much alike. These are just small windows into why I can't imagine life without live music."

Purple & Paisley

The Stage Northside, Pensacola



After Prince's death, a group of area musicians wanted to come together and do something special in honor of him. It was a selfless endeavor that raised money for local music education and happened to fall right before my birthday. It was a heck of a party.

Velcro Pygmies

Tailfin, Destin

Velcro Pygmies have been around for a nice while—a band that is all about being a bit outrageous and having a good time. This year, tragedy came when bassist Jacob Sanders (24) and his brother Jeremiah (29) passed away after a fishing accident that required extensive searching along the Tennessee River.

This was the Pygmies' first time back. Former member Jason "Dep" Reed (pictured) picked his bass back up so the band could continue until a new fulltime member was named. We all mourned and laughed together and celebrated the Sanders brothers.



James "Big Lo" Lopez

Seleven Palafox, Pensacola

Big Lo didn't just release an album, he threw an insanely classy and fun private event to mark the occasion. With drinks and food flowing, it was a personal reminder of how breaking the mold and tackling life from a different angle can



yield exceptional results. The night closed with a high energy performance and good vibes all around.

Franko Fest

Trebeache, Santa Rosa Beach



An evening to help Beachcomber Music Awards Hall of Famer Franko "Washboard" Jackson raise funds and meet additional criteria for a liver transplant. An outpouring of love, music and everything that makes me proud to call this community home.

New Earth Army

Imogene Theatre, Milton



This show marked one of Carly Foster's last with the band, one of those benchmarks that marks our music scene's growth and changes. A few months later, I was at Melissa Joiner's first official gig as the band's new lead singer. Life is funny that way.

Live Music

SEAGAR'S, Sandestin, www.SeagarsDestin.com
RAY HITCHELL, 6-10 p.m.

SEVILLE QUARTER, Pensacola
POST PLUTO

SUNDAY, DEC. 18

AJ'S, Destin
JONES & COMPANY, 4-8 p.m.

A&M THEATRE, Pensacola
FUTURE THIEVES

BART ROCKETT THEATRE, HarborWalk Village, Destin
John Denver Rocky Mountain Christmas
Tribute Starring JAMES GARRETT, 8 p.m. (\$25)

THE BAY, Santa Rosa Beach
MIKE WHITTY & FRIENDS, 2-6 p.m.
Sunday Pickin'—all local musicians invited to jam.

THE BOATHOUSE OYSTER BAR, Destin
KELLY BYRD, 3 p.m.
RUSTY HAMMERSTROM, 6 p.m.

BOSHAMPS, Destin
CONTINUUM, 3 p.m.

CAMILLE'S, Destin
DEAN SADOWSKI, 10 a.m.-Noon

GREEN DOOR MUSIC HALL, Fort Walton Beach
Open Mic Night, 8 p.m.

HAMMERHEAD'S BAR & GRILLE, Village of Baytowne Wharf, Sandestin
OFF THE WALL BAND, 6-9 p.m.

HARBORWALK VILLAGE, Destin, HarborWalkDestin.com
Dreamcatcher Vocal Performance Studio's
"Make It Shine" Concert, 5-7 p.m.

HARRY T'S LIGHTHOUSE, HarborWalk Village
Karaoke, 8 p.m.-Midnight

LOCAL CATCH, Santa Rosa Beach
FORREST WILLIAMS BAND, 4-7 p.m.
Sunday Funday

LUCY BUFFETT'S LULU'S, Destin, lulubuffett.com/destin
GRITS-N-PIECES, 5 p.m.
Mark Willis and John Keuler's mix of original songs and smooth harmony. You'll walk away a GritNeck for life!

McGUIRE'S IRISH PUB, Destin
MAX HAY, 8 p.m.

THE RED BAR, Grayton Beach, 850-231-1008
DREAD CLAMPITT, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

THE REP THEATRE, Seaside, lovetherep.com
THE MOSLEYS

STINKY'S FISH CAMP, Santa Rosa Beach
THE STEENOS with FRANKO "WASHBOARD"
JACKSON, 11 a.m.

TREBEACHE, Santa Rosa Beach
BILL GARRETT – "SMILIN'" FRITZ FROESCHNER,
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 19

BART ROCKETT THEATRE, HarborWalk Village, Destin
John Denver Rocky Mountain Christmas
Tribute Starring JAMES GARRETT, 8 p.m. (\$25)

THE BOATHOUSE OYSTER BAR, Destin
JAY WERNE, 7 p.m.

THE GATHERING SPOT AT WATERCOLOR, Santa Rosa Beach
KYLE LAMONICA, 6 p.m.

LUCY BUFFETT'S LULU'S, Destin, lulubuffett.com/destin
TBA, 5 p.m.

McGUIRE'S IRISH PUB, Destin
MAX HAY, 8 p.m.

SEVILLE QUARTER, Pensacola
SCOOT & JEREMY

TUESDAY, DEC. 20

BART ROCKETT THEATRE, HarborWalk Village, Destin
John Denver Rocky Mountain Christmas
Tribute Starring JAMES GARRETT, 8 p.m. (\$25)

THE HANDLEBAR, Pensacola
THE ARBITRARY

HOG'S BREATH, Destin
BRANDON DAY, 5-9 p.m.

LUCY BUFFETT'S LULU'S, Destin, lulubuffett.com/destin
HOWLIN' JACK, 5 p.m.



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KICKSTAND JENNY
Rock
www.kickstandjenny.com

THE RIPS
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RUTH’S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, Destin,
www.RuthChrisDestin.com
MICHAEL J THOMAS, 6-9 p.m.

SALTWATER GRILL, Panama City Beach,
www.saltwatergrillpcb.com
MICHAEL RORAH

SEAGAR’S, Sandestin,
www.SeagarsDestin.com
RAY HITCHELL, 6-9 p.m.

SWIZZLE STICK LOUNGE, Okaloosa Island
BILL GARRETT, 8 p.m.-Midnight

30A SONGWRITER MUSIC AND COFFEE, Santa Rosa Beach,
www.30asongwriterradio.com
Open Mic Live, 7-10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21

BART ROCKETT THEATRE, HarborWalk Village, Destin
John Denver Rocky Mountain Christmas Tribute Starring JAMES GARRETT, 8 p.m. (\$25)

CUVEE DESTIN, Destin
SPACE JUNKIE, 8 p.m.

FOKKER’S PUB, Fort Walton Beach, 850-244-6666
PARADISE BAYOU, 6-10 p.m.

GREEN DOOR MUSIC HALL, Fort Walton Beach
Wailin’ Blues Wednesdays Starring FINGA FAYA, 8 p.m.

HELEN BACK, Okaloosa Island
DJ/VJ DOC ROC

HELEN BACK AGAIN, Navarre
DJ DFUNK

HOG’S BREATH, Destin
AUSTIN JENNINGS, 5-9 p.m.

LUCY BUFFETT’S LULU’S, Destin,
lulubuffett.com/destin
TBA, 5 p.m.

McGUIRE’S IRISH PUB, Destin
MAX HAY, 8 p.m.

THE RED BAR, Grayton Beach, 850-231-1008
RED BAR JAZZ BAND, 5:30-10 p.m.

REDD’S FUELING STATION, Santa Rosa Beach
Singer-Songwriter Open Mic Hosted by CHRISTIAN MAYES

RUTH’S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, Destin,
www.RuthChrisDestin.com
MICHAEL J THOMAS, 6-9 p.m.
JONES & COMPANY (Courtyard), 6-9 p.m.

SALTWATER GRILL, Panama City Beach,
www.saltwatergrillpcb.com
MICHAEL RORAH

SEAGAR’S, Sandestin,
www.SeagarsDestin.com
RAY HITCHELL, 6-9 p.m.

30A SONGWRITER MUSIC AND COFFEE, Santa Rosa Beach, www.30asongwriterradio.com
TED ROCKET Radio Program, 7-8 p.m.

THE VILLAGE OF BAYTOWNE WHARF, Sandestin, BaytowneWharf.com
Holiday Concert Series, 6-8 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 22

BART ROCKETT THEATRE, HarborWalk Village, Destin
John Denver Rocky Mountain Christmas Tribute Starring JAMES GARRETT, 8 p.m. (\$25)

THE BOATHOUSE OYSTER BAR, Destin
RUSTY HAMMERSTROM, 4 p.m.
AUSTIN JENNINGS, 8 p.m.

CAMILLE’S, Destin
DEAN SADOWSKI, 3-5 p.m.

CUVEE DESTIN, Destin
SPACE JUNKIE, 8 p.m.

DUCK DUCK, Destin
DJ/VJ DOC ROC

HAMMERHEAD’S BAR & GRILLE, Village of Baytowne Wharf, Sandestin
OFF THE WALL BAND, 6-9 p.m.

HOG’S BREATH, Destin
BRYAN BLUDWORTH, 5-9 p.m.

LA PLAYA, Santa Rosa Beach
FORREST WILLIAMS BAND, 7-10 p.m.
Ladies Night

LUCY BUFFETT’S LULU’S, Destin,
lulubuffett.com/destin
HOWLIN’ JACK, 5 p.m.

McGUIRE’S IRISH PUB, Destin
MAX HAY, 8 p.m.

THE RED BAR, Grayton Beach, 850-231-1008
RED BAR JAZZ BAND, 5:30-10 p.m.

REDD’S FUELING STATION, Santa Rosa Beach
REDD, THE SINGING BARTENDER

RUTH’S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, Destin,
www.RuthChrisDestin.com
MICHAEL J THOMAS, 6-9 p.m.

SALTWATER GRILL, Panama City Beach,
www.saltwatergrillpcb.com
MICHAEL RORAH

SEAGAR’S, Sandestin,
www.SeagarsDestin.com
RAY HITCHELL, 6-9 p.m.

30A SONGWRITER MUSIC AND COFFEE, Santa Rosa Beach, www.30asongwriterradio.com
Thursday Night Local Vocal, 7-9 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 23

BART ROCKETT THEATRE, HarborWalk Village, Destin
John Denver Rocky Mountain Christmas Tribute Starring JAMES GARRETT, 8 p.m. (\$25)

THE BOATHOUSE OYSTER BAR, Destin
KELLY BYRD, 4 p.m.
JASON CLARK, 7 p.m.

BRIC A BRAC, Destin
JONES & COMPANY

CUVEE DESTIN, Destin
SPACE JUNKIE, 8 p.m.

DUCK DUCK, Destin
DJ/VJ DOC ROC

FOKKER’S PUB, Fort Walton Beach, 850-244-6666
JORDAN BALLANTYNE, 6-10 p.m.

THE HANDLEBAR, Pensacola
BIG LO

HOG’S BREATH, Destin
JIM COUCH, 5-9 p.m.
MODERATE CHOP, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

LOCAL CATCH, Santa Rosa Beach
FORREST WILLIAMS BAND, 8-11 p.m.
Ugly Christmas Sweater Party!

LUCY BUFFETT’S LULU’S, Destin,
lulubuffett.com/destin
ADAM HOLT, 5 p.m.

McGUIRE’S IRISH PUB, Destin
MAX HAY, 8 p.m.

MODICA MARKET, Seaside,
www.modicamarket.com
THE STEENOS, 5-7 p.m.

THE RED BAR, Grayton Beach, 850-231-1008
RED BAR JAZZ BAND, 5:30-10 p.m.

RUTH’S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, Destin,
www.RuthChrisDestin.com
MICHAEL J THOMAS, 6-9 p.m.

SALTWATER GRILL, Panama City Beach,
www.saltwatergrillpcb.com
MICHAEL RORAH

SEAGAR’S, Sandestin,
www.SeagarsDestin.com
RAY HITCHELL, 6-10 p.m.

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Friday Night Originals, 7-9 p.m.

WIND CREEK CASINO, Atmore, AL
FORTAG

WORLD OF BEER, Destin
HERITAGE, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 24

THE BOATHOUSE OYSTER BAR, Destin
RUSTY HAMMERSTROM, 4 p.m.
GUNNER, 8:30 p.m.

McGUIRE’S IRISH PUB, Destin
MAX HAY, 8 p.m.

THE RED BAR, Grayton Beach,
850-231-1008
RED BAR JAZZ BAND, 5:30-10 p.m.

REDD’S FUELING STATION, Santa Rosa Beach
REDD, THE SINGING BARTENDER

RUTH’S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, Destin,
www.RuthChrisDestin.com
MICHAEL J THOMAS, 6-9 p.m.

SALTWATER GRILL, Panama City Beach,
www.saltwatergrillpcb.com
MICHAEL RORAH

SEAGAR’S, Sandestin, www.SeagarsDestin.com
RAY HITCHELL, 6-10 p.m.

WIND CREEK CASINO, Atmore, AL
FORTAG

SUNDAY, DEC. 25

McGUIRE’S IRISH PUB, Destin
MAX HAY, 8 p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 26

THE BOATHOUSE OYSTER BAR, Destin
JAY WERNE, 7 p.m.

THE GATHERING SPOT AT WATERCOLOR, Santa Rosa Beach
KYLE LAMONICA, 6 p.m.

LUCY BUFFETT’S LULU’S, Destin,
lulubuffett.com/destin
JUSTIN YAWN, 5 p.m.

McGUIRE’S IRISH PUB, Destin
MAX HAY, 8 p.m.

SEVILLE QUARTER, Pensacola
SCOOT & JEREMY

TUESDAY, DEC. 27

HOG’S BREATH, Destin
BRANDON DAY, 5-9 p.m.

LUCY BUFFETT’S LULU’S, Destin,
lulubuffett.com/destin
THREE BEAN SOUP, 5 p.m.

McGUIRE’S IRISH PUB, Destin
MAX HAY, 8 p.m.

REDD’S FUELING STATION, Santa Rosa Beach
REDD, THE SINGING BARTENDER

RUTH’S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, Destin,
www.RuthChrisDestin.com
MICHAEL J THOMAS, 6-9 p.m.

SALTWATER GRILL, Panama City Beach,
www.saltwatergrillpcb.com
MICHAEL RORAH

SEAGAR’S, Sandestin,
www.SeagarsDestin.com
RAY HITCHELL, 6-9 p.m.

SWIZZLE STICK LOUNGE, Okaloosa Island
BILL GARRETT, 8 p.m.-Midnight

30A SONGWRITER MUSIC AND COFFEE, Santa Rosa Beach,
www.30asongwriterradio.com
Open Mic Live, 7-10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28

FOKKER’S PUB, Fort Walton Beach,
850-244-6666
PARADISE BAYOU, 6-10 p.m.

GREEN DOOR MUSIC HALL, Fort Walton Beach
Wailin’ Blues Wednesdays Starring FINGA FAYA, 8 p.m.

HELEN BACK, Okaloosa Island
DJ/VJ DOC ROC

HELEN BACK AGAIN, Navarre
DJ DFUNK

HOG’S BREATH, Destin
AUSTIN JENNINGS, 5-9 p.m.

HUB STACEY’S, Pensacola
THE JOHN HART PROJECT

LUCY BUFFETT’S LULU’S, Destin,
lulubuffett.com/destin
BT TURNER, 5 p.m.

McGUIRE’S IRISH PUB, Destin
MAX HAY, 8 p.m.

THE RED BAR, Grayton Beach, 850-231-1008
RED BAR JAZZ BAND, 5:30-10 p.m.

REDD’S FUELING STATION, Santa Rosa Beach
Singer-Songwriter Open Mic Hosted by CHRISTIAN MAYES

RUTH’S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, Destin,
www.RuthChrisDestin.com
MICHAEL J THOMAS, 6-9 p.m.
JONES & COMPANY (Courtyard), 6-9 p.m.

SALTWATER GRILL, Panama City Beach,
www.saltwatergrillpcb.com
MICHAEL RORAH

SEAGAR’S, Sandestin,
www.SeagarsDestin.com
RAY HITCHELL, 6-9 p.m.

30A SONGWRITER MUSIC AND COFFEE, Santa Rosa Beach,
www.30asongwriterradio.com
TED ROCKET Radio Program, 7-8 p.m.

VINYL MUSIC HALL, Pensacola
THE RED JUMPSUIT APPARATUS

THURSDAY, DEC. 29

CAMILLE’S, Destin
DEAN SADOWSKI, 3-5 p.m.

CUVEE DESTIN, Destin
SPACE JUNKIE, 8 p.m.



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DUCK DUCK, Destin DJ/VJ DOC ROC
HOG’S BREATH, Destin BRYAN BLUDWORTH, 5-9 p.m.
LUCY BUFFETT’S LULU’S, Destin, lulubuffett.com/destin WILL & LINDA PLEASANTS, 5 p.m.
McGUIRE’S IRISH PUB, Destin MAX HAY, 8 p.m.
THE RED BAR, Grayton Beach, 850-231-1008 RED BAR JAZZ BAND, 5:30-10 p.m.
REDD’S FUELING STATION, Santa Rosa Beach REDD, THE SINGING BARTENDER
RUTH’S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, Destin, www.RuthChrisDestin.com MICHAEL J THOMAS, 6-9 p.m.
SALTWATER GRILL, Panama City Beach, www.saltwatergrillpcb.com MICHAEL RORAH
SEAGAR’S, Sandestin, www.SeagarsDestin.com RAY HITCHELL, 6-9 p.m.
FRIDAY, DEC. 30
THE BOATHOUSE OYSTER BAR, Destin KELLY BYRD, 4 p.m. JASON CLARK, 7 p.m.
BRIC A BRAC, Destin JONES & COMPANY
CUVEE DESTIN, Destin SPACE JUNKIE, 8 p.m.
FOKKER’S PUB, Fort Walton Beach, 850-244-6666 JORDAN BALLANTYNE, 6-10 p.m.
GREEN DOOR MUSIC HALL, Fort Walton Beach 4 DAZE DEAD
HOG’S BREATH, Destin JIM COUCH, 5-9 p.m. JACOB MOHR, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.
LUCY BUFFETT’S LULU’S, Destin, lulubuffett.com/destin ADAM HOLT, 5 p.m.
McGUIRE’S IRISH PUB, Destin MAX HAY, 8 p.m.
MODICA MARKET, Seaside, www.modicamarket.com THE STEENOS, 5-7 p.m.
PERDIDO SPORTS BAR, Pensacola WHYTE CAPS
THE RED BAR, Grayton Beach, 850-231-1008 RED BAR JAZZ BAND, 5:30-10 p.m.
RUTH’S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, Destin, www.RuthChrisDestin.com MICHAEL J THOMAS, 6-9 p.m.
SALTWATER GRILL, Panama City Beach, www.saltwatergrillpcb.com MICHAEL RORAH
SEAGAR’S, Sandestin, www.SeagarsDestin.com RAY HITCHELL, 6-10 p.m.

TAILFINS, Destin FORTAG
30A SONGWRITER MUSIC AND COFFEE, Santa Rosa Beach, www.30asongwriterradio.com Friday Night Originals, 7-9 p.m.
VINYL MUSIC HALL, Pensacola COWBOY MOUTH – TYLER MAC BAND
SATURDAY, DEC. 31
AJ’S, Destin NAKD
THE BOATHOUSE OYSTER BAR, Destin RUSTY HAMMERSTROM, 4 p.m. GUNNER, 8:30 p.m.
CUVEE DESTIN, Destin SPACE JUNKIE, 8 p.m.
FISH OUT OF WATER, Santa Rosa Beach MARC HARRIS & MOJO RISING, 6 p.m.
FORT WALTON BEACH LANDING HERITAGE, 8 p.m.
HAMMERHEAD’S BAR & GRILLE, Village of Baytowne Wharf, Sandestin OFF THE WALL BAND
HARBORWALK VILLAGE, Destin, HarborWalkDestin.com FLOW TRIBE, 7 p.m. DEPARTURE – The Journey Tribute Band, 10 p.m. <i>Fireworks at 8 and midnight, plus the annual Ball Drop.</i>
THE HENDERSON, Destin GEOFF McBRIDE
LUCY BUFFETT’S LULU’S, Destin, lulubuffett.com/destin Noon Year’s Eve, 10 a.m. <i>Kid-friendly music, fireworks, HUGE beach ball drop and more.</i>
McGUIRE’S IRISH PUB, Destin MAX HAY, 8 p.m.
OLD FLORIDA FISH HOUSE, Seagrove Beach FORREST WILLIAMS BAND, 9 p.m.-Midnight <i>New Year’s Eve Party</i>
THE ORIGINAL POINT RESTAURANT, Pensacola WHYTE CAPS
THE RED BAR, Grayton Beach, 850-231-1008 RED BAR JAZZ BAND, 5:30-10 p.m.
REDD’S FUELING STATION, Santa Rosa Beach REDD, THE SINGING BARTENDER
RUTH’S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, Destin, www.RuthChrisDestin.com MICHAEL J THOMAS, 6-9 p.m.
SAENGER THEATRE, Pensacola WYCLIFFE GORDON
SALTWATER GRILL, Panama City Beach, www.saltwatergrillpcb.com MICHAEL RORAH
SEAGAR’S, Sandestin, www.SeagarsDestin.com RAY HITCHELL, 6-10 p.m.

TISANO’S, Bluewater Bay RETROACTIVE, 9 p.m. til...
THE VILLAGE OF BAYTOWNE WHARF, Sandestin, BaytowneWharf.com STEVIE HALL, 8 p.m. A TIME OF YOUR LIFE <i>Baytowne Countdown, with fireworks at 8 and midnight.</i>
WIND CREEK CASINO, Atmore, AL APX BAND
SUNDAY, JAN. 1
AJ’S, Destin JONES & COMPANY, 4-8 p.m.
THE BAY, Santa Rosa Beach MIKE WHITTY & FRIENDS, 2-6 p.m. <i>Sunday Pickin’—all local musicians invited to jam.</i>
THE BOATHOUSE OYSTER BAR, Destin KELLY BYRD, 3 p.m. RUSTY HAMMERSTROM, 6 p.m.
CAMILLE’S, Destin DEAN SADOWSKI, 10 a.m.-Noon
GREEN DOOR MUSIC HALL, Fort Walton Beach Open Mic Night, 8 p.m.
HAMMERHEAD’S BAR & GRILLE, Village of Baytowne Wharf, Sandestin OFF THE WALL BAND, 6-9 p.m.
HARRY T’S LIGHTHOUSE, HarborWalk Village Karaoke, 8 p.m.-Midnight
McGUIRE’S IRISH PUB, Destin MAX HAY, 8 p.m.
THE RED BAR, Grayton Beach, 850-231-1008 DREAD CLAMPITT, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
STINKY’S FISH CAMP, Santa Rosa Beach THE STEENOS with FRANKO “WASHBOARD” JACKSON, 11 a.m.
TREBEACHE, Santa Rosa Beach BILL GARRETT – “SMILIN” FRITZ FROESCHNER, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
MONDAY, JAN. 2
THE BOATHOUSE OYSTER BAR, Destin JAY WERNE, 7 p.m.
LUCY BUFFETT’S LULU’S, Destin, lulubuffett.com/destin TBA, 5 p.m.
McGUIRE’S IRISH PUB, Destin MAX HAY, 8 p.m.
TUESDAY, JAN. 3
HOG’S BREATH, Destin, www.hogsbreath.com/destin BRANDON DAY, 5-9 p.m.
LUCY BUFFETT’S LULU’S, Destin, lulubuffett.com/destin HOWLIN' JACK, 5 p.m.
McGUIRE’S IRISH PUB, Destin MAX HAY, 8 p.m.
REDD’S FUELING STATION, Santa Rosa Beach REDD, THE SINGING BARTENDER

RUTH’S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, Destin, www.RuthChrisDestin.com MICHAEL J THOMAS, 6-9 p.m.
SALTWATER GRILL, Panama City Beach, www.saltwatergrillpcb.com MICHAEL RORAH
SEAGAR’S, Sandestin, www.SeagarsDestin.com RAY HITCHELL, 6-9 p.m.
SWIZZLE STICK LOUNGE, Okaloosa Island BILL GARRETT, 8 p.m.-Midnight
30A SONGWRITER MUSIC AND COFFEE, Santa Rosa Beach, www.30asongwriterradio.com Open Mic Live, 7-10 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 4
CRAB ISLAND CANTINA, HarborWalk Village, crabislandcantina.com BT TURNER, 4 p.m.
FOKKER’S PUB, Fort Walton Beach, 850-244-6666 PARADISE BAYOU, 6-10 p.m.
GREEN DOOR MUSIC HALL, Fort Walton Beach Wailin’ Blues Wednesdays Starring FINGA FAYA, 8 p.m.
THE HANDLEBAR, Pensacola TEN FOOT BEAST
HOG’S BREATH, Destin, www.hogsbreath.com/destin AUSTIN JENNINGS, 5-9 p.m.
LUCY BUFFETT’S LULU’S, Destin, lulubuffett.com/destin JUSTIN YAWN, 5 p.m.
McGUIRE’S IRISH PUB, Destin MAX HAY, 8 p.m.
THE RED BAR, Grayton Beach, 850-231-1008 RED BAR JAZZ BAND, 5:30-10 p.m.
REDD’S FUELING STATION, Santa Rosa Beach Singer-Songwriter Open Mic Hosted by CHRISTIAN MAYES
RUTH’S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, Destin, www.RuthChrisDestin.com MICHAEL J THOMAS, 6-9 p.m. JONES & COMPANY, 6-9 p.m. (Courtyard)
SALTWATER GRILL, Panama City Beach, www.saltwatergrillpcb.com MICHAEL RORAH
SEAGAR’S, Sandestin, www.SeagarsDestin.com RAY HITCHELL, 6-9 p.m.
30A SONGWRITER MUSIC AND COFFEE, Santa Rosa Beach, www.30asongwriterradio.com TED ROCKET Radio Program, 7-8 p.m.
THURSDAY, JAN. 5
CAMILLE’S, Destin DEAN SADOWSKI, 3-5 p.m.
HAMMERHEAD’S BAR & GRILLE, Village of Baytowne Wharf, Sandestin OFF THE WALL BAND, 6-9 p.m.



Live Music

HOG’S BREATH, Destin
BRYAN BLUDWORTH, 5-9 p.m.

LUCY BUFFETT’S LULU’S, Destin,
lulubuffett.com/destin
HOWLIN’ JACK, 5 p.m.

McGUIRE’S IRISH PUB, Destin
MAX HAY, 8 p.m.

THE RED BAR, Grayton Beach, 850-231-1008
RED BAR JAZZ BAND, 5:30-10 p.m.

REDD’S FUELING STATION, Santa Rosa Beach
REDD, THE SINGING BARTENDER

RUTH’S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, Destin,
www.RuthChrisDestin.com
MICHAEL J THOMAS, 6-9 p.m.

SALTWATER GRILL, Panama City Beach,
www.saltwatergrillpcb.com
MICHAEL RORAH

SEAGAR’S, Sandestin, www.SeagarsDestin.com
RAY HITCHELL, 6-9 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 6

THE BOATHOUSE OYSTER BAR, Destin
KELLY BYRD, 4 p.m.
JASON CLARK, 7 p.m.

BRIC A BRAC, Destin
JONES & COMPANY

CUVEE DESTIN, Destin
SPACE JUNKIE, 8 p.m.

DOC’S OYSTER BAR, Valparaiso
BT TURNER, 7 p.m.

FOKKER’S PUB, Fort Walton Beach,
850-244-6666
JORDAN BALLANTYNE, 6-10 p.m.

GREEN DOOR MUSIC HALL, Fort Walton Beach
RYAN HUTCHENS

HOG’S BREATH, Destin,
www.hogsbreath.com/destin
JIM COUCH, 5-9 p.m.

LUCY BUFFETT’S LULU’S, Destin,
lulubuffett.com/destin
DON MIDDLEBROWS, 5 p.m

McGUIRE’S IRISH PUB, Destin
MAX HAY, 8 p.m.

MODICA MARKET, Seaside,
www.modicamarket.com
THE STEENOS, 5-7 p.m.

THE RED BAR, Grayton Beach, 850-231-1008
RED BAR JAZZ BAND, 5:30-10 p.m.

REDD’S FUELING STATION, Santa Rosa Beach
OFF THE WALL BAND

RUTH’S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, Destin,
www.RuthChrisDestin.com
MICHAEL J THOMAS, 6-9 p.m.

SAENGER THEATRE, Pensacola
THE BLACK JACKET SYMPHONY
Performing Pink Floyd’s immortal classic The Dark Side of the Moon.

SALTWATER GRILL, Panama City Beach,
www.saltwatergrillpcb.com
MICHAEL RORAH

SEAGAR’S, Sandestin,
www.SeagarsDestin.com
RAY HITCHELL, 6-10 p.m.

TAILFINS, Destin
FORTAG

30A SONGWRITER MUSIC AND COFFEE, Santa Rosa Beach,
www.30asongwriterradio.com
Friday Night Originals, 7-9 p.m.

WIND CREEK CASINO, Atmore, AL
MOJILES

SATURDAY, JAN. 7

THE BOATHOUSE OYSTER BAR, Destin
RUSTY HAMMERSTROM, 4 p.m.
GUNNER, 8:30 p.m.

HAMMERHEAD’S BAR & GRILLE, Village of Baytowne Wharf, Sandestin
OFF THE WALL BAND, 6-9 p.m.

LUCY BUFFETT’S LULU’S, Destin,
lulubuffett.com/destin
DON MIDDLEBROWS, 5 p.m

McGUIRE’S IRISH PUB, Destin
MAX HAY, 8 p.m.

THE RED BAR, Grayton Beach, 850-231-1008
RED BAR JAZZ BAND, 5:30-10 p.m.

REDD’S FUELING STATION, Santa Rosa Beach
REDD, THE SINGING BARTENDER

RUTH’S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, Destin,
www.RuthChrisDestin.com
MICHAEL J THOMAS, 6-9 p.m.

SAENGER THEATRE, Pensacola
WYCLIFFE GORDON

SALTWATER GRILL, Panama City Beach,
www.saltwatergrillpcb.com
MICHAEL RORAH

SEAGAR’S, Sandestin, www.SeagarsDestin.com
RAY HITCHELL, 6-10 p.m.

VINYL MUSIC HALL, Pensacola
HONEY ISLAND SWAMP BAND – POST PLUTO
– TYLER MAC BAND

WIND CREEK CASINO, Atmore, AL
MOJILES

SUNDAY, JAN. 8

AJ’S, Destin
JONES & COMPANY, 4-8 p.m.

THE BAY, Santa Rosa Beach
MIKE WHITTY & FRIENDS, 2-6 p.m.
Sunday Pickin’—all local musicians invited to jam.

THE BOATHOUSE OYSTER BAR, Destin
KELLY BYRD, 3 p.m.
RUSTY HAMMERSTROM, 6 p.m.

CAMILLE’S, Destin
DEAN SADOWSKI, 10 a.m.-Noon

GREEN DOOR MUSIC HALL, Fort Walton Beach
Open Mic Night, 8 p.m.

HAMMERHEAD’S BAR & GRILLE, Village of Baytowne Wharf, Sandestin
OFF THE WALL BAND, 6-9 p.m.

HARBORWALK VILLAGE, Destin,
HarborWalkDestin.com
DAVID SEERING, 2-4 p.m.
The Winter Guest Concert Series kicks off with the Beachcomber Music Award winner for Best Male Vocalist (2009-10).

HARRY T’S LIGHTHOUSE, HarborWalk Village
Karaoke, 8 p.m.-Midnight

LUCY BUFFETT’S LULU’S, Destin,
lulubuffett.com/destin
TBA, 5 p.m.

McGUIRE’S IRISH PUB, Destin
MAX HAY, 8 p.m.

THE RED BAR, Grayton Beach, 850-231-1008
DREAD CLAMPITT, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

STINKY’S FISH CAMP, Santa Rosa Beach
THE STEENOS with FRANKO “WASHBOARD” JACKSON, 11 a.m.

TREBEACHE, Santa Rosa Beach
BILL GARRETT – “SMILIN” FRITZ FROESCHNER, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

MONDAY, JAN. 9

THE BOATHOUSE OYSTER BAR, Destin
JAY WERNE, 7 p.m.

LUCY BUFFETT’S LULU’S, Destin,
lulubuffett.com/destin
TBA, 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 10

HOG’S BREATH, Destin,
www.hogsbreath.com/destin
BRANDON DAY, 5-9 p.m.

LUCY BUFFETT’S LULU’S, Destin,
lulubuffett.com/destin
HOWLIN’ JACK, 5 p.m

REDD’S FUELING STATION, Santa Rosa Beach
REDD, THE SINGING BARTENDER

RUTH’S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, Destin,
www.RuthChrisDestin.com
MICHAEL J THOMAS, 6-9 p.m.

SALTWATER GRILL, Panama City Beach,
www.saltwatergrillpcb.com
MICHAEL RORAH

SEAGAR’S, Sandestin,
www.SeagarsDestin.com
RAY HITCHELL, 6-9 p.m.

SWIZZLE STICK LOUNGE, Okaloosa Island
BILL GARRETT, 8 p.m.-Midnight

30A SONGWRITER MUSIC AND COFFEE, Santa Rosa Beach,
www.30asongwriterradio.com
Open Mic Live, 7-10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 11

CRAB ISLAND CANTINA, HarborWalk Village, crabislandcantina.com
BT TURNER, 4 p.m.

FOKKER’S PUB, Fort Walton Beach, 850-244-6666
PARADISE BAYOU, 6-10 p.m.

GREEN DOOR MUSIC HALL, Fort Walton Beach
Wailin’ Blues Wednesdays Starring FINGA FAYA, 8 p.m.

HOG’S BREATH, Destin,
www.hogsbreath.com/destin
AUSTIN JENNINGS, 5-9 p.m.

LUCY BUFFETT’S LULU’S, Destin,
lulubuffett.com/destin
RONNIE PRESLEY, 5 p.m.
“The Delta’s Rockin’ Countryboy”

THE RED BAR, Grayton Beach, 850-231-1008
RED BAR JAZZ BAND, 5:30-10 p.m.

REDD’S FUELING STATION, Santa Rosa Beach
Singer-Songwriter Open Mic Hosted by CHRISTIAN MAYES

RUTH’S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, Destin,
www.RuthChrisDestin.com
MICHAEL J THOMAS, 6-9 p.m.
JONES & COMPANY, 6-9 p.m. (Courtyard)

SALTWATER GRILL, Panama City Beach,
www.saltwatergrillpcb.com
MICHAEL RORAH

SEAGAR’S, Sandestin,
www.SeagarsDestin.com
RAY HITCHELL, 6-9 p.m.

30A SONGWRITER MUSIC AND COFFEE, Santa Rosa Beach,
www.30asongwriterradio.com
TED ROCKET Radio Program, 7-8 p.m.

VINYL MUSIC HALL, Pensacola
DWEEZIL ZAPPA

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Events

All information is subject to change. Please refer to the contact numbers and/or emails/web sites for up-to-the-minute details. Send us your Jan. 12-25, 2017 events by noon Friday, Jan. 6, or they will not be in our next issue. Please submit events in the format used here. Photos welcome. Email chris@beachcomberdestin.com.

THURSDAY, DEC. 15-SUNDAY, DEC. 25

SEVENTH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF TREES
Grand Boulevard at Sandestin, Miramar Beach
grandboulevard.com
Uniquely decorated Christmas trees from area nonprofits.

THURSDAY, DEC. 15-TUESDAY, DEC. 27

21ST ANNUAL NICEVILLE CHRISTMAS DISPLAY – “ANIMATION IN MOTION”
1140 East John Sims Parkway, Niceville, 6-9 p.m.
TheNicevilleChristmasLady.com
FREE display with over 600 animated dolls, hundreds of nutcrackers, trains, and Beachcomberland’s largest Christmas Village, with over 1,000 pieces. Santa stops in for the holiday fun **Dec. 24.**

THURSDAY, DEC. 15-FRIDAY, FEB. 10, 2017

BAYTOWNE ON ICE
The Village of Baytowne Wharf, Sandestin
baytownewharf.com
Skate on, Beachcomberland!

THURSDAY, DEC. 15

EMERALD COAST THEATRE COMPANY’S “A DICKENS CHRISTMAS”
560 Grand Boulevard, Sandestin, 7:30 p.m.
emeraldcoasttheatre.org
Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors, and \$15 for students. This lively twist on Charles Dickens’ immortal classic is not recommended for children under the age of 5. Purchase tickets at the website or call 850-684-0323.

“EVERY CHRISTMAS STORY EVER TOLD (AND THEN SOME!)”
The REP Theatre, Seaside, 7:30 p.m.
LoveTheREP.com
Hilarious mashup of all your holiday favorites and some you may have forgotten. Tickets are \$25 for adults, 10 bucks for kids under 12.

THIRD THURSDAY SPARKLING WINE WALKABOUT
Gulf Place, Santa Rosa Beach, 5-7 p.m.
For just \$20, enjoy samplings of hand-selected sparkling wines, light appetizers, live music and giveaways.

FRIDAY, DEC. 16

EMERALD COAST THEATRE COMPANY’S “A DICKENS CHRISTMAS”
560 Grand Boulevard, Sandestin, 7:30 p.m.
emeraldcoasttheatre.org
Purchase tickets at the website or call 850-684-0323.

“EVERY CHRISTMAS STORY EVER TOLD (AND THEN SOME!)”
The REP Theatre, Seaside, 7:30 p.m.
LoveTheREP.com
Hilarious mashup of all your holiday favorites and some you may have forgotten. Tickets are \$25 for adults, 10 bucks for kids under 12.

FREE UGLY SWEATER PARTY
Imogene Theatre, Milton, 5-8 p.m.
All ages welcome. Food by Pensacola Cooks Kitchen.

PROPS BREWERY & TAP ROOM GRAND OPENING
125 Lovejoy Road, Fort Walton Beach, 3-10 p.m.
Take a tour of the new brew facility.

12 NIGHTS OF LIGHTS
The Village of Baytowne Wharf, Sandestin, 6, 7 and 8 p.m.
baytownewharf.com
A festive light show to get you in the holiday spirit.

SATURDAY, DEC. 17

EMERALD COAST THEATRE COMPANY’S “A DICKENS CHRISTMAS”
560 Grand Boulevard, Sandestin, 7:30 p.m.
emeraldcoasttheatre.org

Purchase tickets at the website or call 850-684-0323.

“EVERY CHRISTMAS STORY EVER TOLD (AND THEN SOME!)”
The REP Theatre, Seaside, 2 and 7:30 p.m.
LoveTheREP.com
Hilarious mashup of all your holiday favorites and some you may have forgotten. Tickets are \$25 for adults, 10 bucks for kids under 12.

HOLIDAY VICTORIAN TEA
Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso, 2 p.m.
850-678-2615
Experience old school tea etiquette and holiday traditions. Cost is \$16 (\$13 for museum members). Reservations required—call the number above.

SANTA ARRIVES
Fudpucker’s, Destin, 3-7 p.m.
fudpucker.com
Kids, get your photos taken with Santa *and* a gator!

SANTA CAUSE PUB CRAWL
HarborWalk Village, Destin, 7 p.m.-Midnight
HarborWalkDestin.com
Put on your best holiday outfit (or worst, for you ugly sweater people) and enjoy drink specials at HarborWalk bars while supporting **Emerald Coast Relay for Life**. Tickets are 10 bucks at **eventbrite.com**.

SEASIDE FARMERS MARKET
Seaside, 8 a.m.-Noon. Behind Raw & Juicy
www.seasidefl.com
Fresh produce, baked goods, dairy products, native plants and other unique offerings.

12 NIGHTS OF LIGHTS
The Village of Baytowne Wharf, Sandestin, 6, 7 and 8 p.m.
baytownewharf.com
A festive light show to get you in the holiday spirit.

SUNDAY, DEC. 18

EMERALD COAST THEATRE COMPANY’S “A DICKENS CHRISTMAS”
560 Grand Boulevard, Sandestin, 2 p.m.
emeraldcoasttheatre.org
Purchase tickets at the website or call 850-684-0323.

“EVERY CHRISTMAS STORY EVER TOLD (AND THEN SOME!)”
The REP Theatre, Seaside, 2 p.m.
LoveTheREP.com
Hilarious mashup of all your holiday favorites and some you may have forgotten. Tickets are \$25 for adults, 10 bucks for kids under 12.

ONEBLOOD BLOOD DRIVE
Destin Commons, Noon-6 p.m.
Donate and receive a FREE AMC movie ticket.

MONDAY, DEC. 19

JUST SAYIN’ SPOKEN WORD
30A Songwriter Music & Coffee, Santa Rosa Beach, 7 p.m.
30Asongwriterradio.com
Tonight’s theme is “Merry and Blue Christmas.”

TUESDAY, DEC. 20

ARMED LADY CRESTVIEW DECEMBER MEETING
Shoal River Shooting Range, Crestview, 5-7 p.m.
Ladies, come ready to shoot!

Family-Friendly Events

THURSDAY, DEC. 15

Kids Eat FREE, various locations in Destin, Crestview, Fort Walton Beach, Panama City Beach. More info at **emeraldcoastkids.org**.

FRIDAY, DEC. 16

Kids Holiday Art Class at Walton County Coastal Branch Library, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Santa and a Movie, South Willing Street, Milton, 5 p.m.

Sinfonia Gulf Coast Holiday Concert at Destiny Worship Center, 7:30 p.m.
SinfoniaGulfCoast.org.

SATURDAY, DEC. 17

Breakfast with Santa at Grande Vista Bar and Grill, Emerald Grande, Destin, 8-11 a.m. Call 850-424-0621 for reservations.

Visit with Santa Claus, HarborWalk Village, Destin, noon-4 p.m. **HarborWalkDestin.com**.

Emerald Coast Christmas Miracle Needy Children’s Fiesta at Emerald Coast Convention Center, Okaloosa Island, 2-7 p.m. A fun-filled Latin-flavored party open to needy children and families. Activities for special needs children from 1 to 2 p.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 18

Breakfast with Santa at Grande Vista Bar and Grill, Emerald Grande, Destin, 8-11 a.m. Call 850-424-0621 for reservations.

Visit with Santa Claus, HarborWalk Village, Destin, noon-4 p.m. **HarborWalkDestin.com**.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21

HH Arts Christmas Market at 100 Beal Parkway SW, Fort Walton Beach, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Holiday Concert and Festive Light Show in the Village of Baytowne Wharf, Sandestin, 7-9 p.m. **baytownewharf.com**.

THURSDAY, DEC. 22

Gingerbread Tea at the Pearl, Rosemary Beach, 1-3 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 31

Baytowne Countdown in the Village of Baytowne Wharf, Sandestin, 6 p.m.-midnight. Face painting, kids activities, live music, fireworks and more. **baytownewharf.com**.

New Year’s Eve Street Party, HarborWalk Village, Destin, starting at 6 p.m. Live music, two fireworks shows, and the ninth annual ball drop over the Destin Harbor. **HarborWalkDestin.com**.

SUNDAY, JAN. 1

Rosemary Beach Farmers Market, 9 a.m.

THURSDAY, JAN. 5

Planetarium Night at Emerald Coast Science Center, Fort Walton Beach, 5-8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 11

Rodgers and Hammerstein’s “Cinderella” at Saenger Theatre, Pensacola, 7:30 p.m. - *Kellyanne Bartleson, EmeraldCoastKids.org*



Phoenix Wells lets Billy Claus, Santa’s beach-loving cousin, know what she really wants this Christmas at Billy’s holiday appearance at Lucy Buffett’s LuLu’s in Destin.
Photo by Kay Phelan.

Events

PREMIUM HOLIDAY COOKING DEMO
Whole Foods Market, Destin, 6:30-8 p.m.
Chef Kyle McKeever prepares holiday favorites. Learn, sample, sip.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21
“EVERY CHRISTMAS STORY EVER TOLD (AND THEN SOME!)”
The REP Theatre, Seaside, 7:30 p.m.
LoveTheREP.com
Hilarious mashup of all your holiday favorites and some you may have forgotten. Tickets are \$25 for adults, 10 bucks for kids under 12.

12 NIGHTS OF LIGHTS
The Village of Baytowne Wharf, Sandestin, 6, 7 and 8 p.m.
baytownewharf.com
A festive light show to get you in the holiday spirit.

THURSDAY, DEC. 22
EMERALD COAST THEATRE COMPANY’S “A DICKENS CHRISTMAS”
560 Grand Boulevard, Sandestin, 7:30 p.m.
emeraldcoasttheatre.org
Purchase tickets at the website or call 850-684-0323.

“EVERY CHRISTMAS STORY EVER TOLD (AND THEN SOME!)”
The REP Theatre, Seaside, 2 and 7:30 p.m.
LoveTheREP.com
Hilarious mashup of all your holiday favorites and some you may have forgotten. Tickets are \$25 for adults, 10 bucks for kids under 12.

SPOT ON COMEDY NIGHT
The Spot, Fort Walton Beach, 7:30-10:30 p.m.
eventbrite.com
Get your laugh on with local faves **J.J. Curry** and **Mark LaBarge**, plus El Lay funnyman **Ryan Pfiesser** and headliner **Drew Wayne**.

FRIDAY, DEC. 23
EMERALD COAST THEATRE COMPANY’S “A DICKENS CHRISTMAS”
560 Grand Boulevard, Sandestin, 7:30 p.m.
emeraldcoasttheatre.org
Purchase tickets at the website or call 850-684-0323.

“EVERY CHRISTMAS STORY EVER TOLD (AND THEN SOME!)”
The REP Theatre, Seaside, 2 and 7:30 p.m.

LoveTheREP.com
Hilarious mashup of all your holiday favorites and some you may have forgotten. Tickets are \$25 for adults, 10 bucks for kids under 12.

HOT CHOCOLATE POP UP!
Whole Foods Market, Destin, 6-9 p.m.
Stop in and enjoy a cuppa.

12 NIGHTS OF LIGHTS
The Village of Baytowne Wharf, Sandestin, 6, 7 and 8 p.m.
baytownewharf.com
A festive light show to get you in the holiday spirit.

SATURDAY, DEC. 24
EMERALD COAST THEATRE COMPANY’S “A DICKENS CHRISTMAS”
560 Grand Boulevard, Sandestin, 2:30 p.m.
emeraldcoasttheatre.org
Purchase tickets at the website or call 850-684-0323.

“EVERY CHRISTMAS STORY EVER TOLD (AND THEN SOME!)”
The REP Theatre, Seaside, 2 p.m.
LoveTheREP.com
Hilarious mashup of all your holiday favorites and some you may have forgotten. Tickets are \$25 for adults, 10 bucks for kids under 12.

ONEBLOOD BLOOD DRIVE
Destin Commons, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Donate and receive a \$10 Starbucks gift card.

SEASIDE FARMERS MARKET
Seaside, 8 a.m.-Noon. Behind Raw & Juicy
www.seasidefl.com
Fresh produce, baked goods, dairy products, native plants and other unique offerings.

12 NIGHTS OF LIGHTS
The Village of Baytowne Wharf, Sandestin, 6, 7 and 8 p.m.
baytownewharf.com
A festive light show to get you in the holiday spirit.

SUNDAY, DEC. 25
CHRISTMAS DINNER
Grande Vista Bar & Grill, HarborWalk Village, Destin, Starts at 11 a.m.
850-424-0621
A special three-course holiday feast. Cost is \$35

per person (plus tax and gratuity), \$14.95 for children 12 and under.

MONDAY, DEC. 26
CHANUKAH MENORAH LIGHTING
HarborWalk Village, Destin, 5:30 p.m.
HarborWalkDestin.com
Grand menorah lighting on the main stage with hot latkes, Chanukah music and kids’ activities. More at **chabademeraldcoast.org**.

“EVERY CHRISTMAS STORY EVER TOLD (AND THEN SOME!)”
The REP Theatre, Seaside, 7:30 p.m.
LoveTheREP.com
Hilarious mashup of all your holiday favorites and some you may have forgotten. Tickets are \$25 for adults, 10 bucks for kids under 12.

TUESDAY, DEC. 27
“EVERY CHRISTMAS STORY EVER TOLD (AND THEN SOME!)”
The REP Theatre, Seaside, 2 and 7:30 p.m.

LoveTheREP.com
Hilarious mashup of all your holiday favorites and some you may have forgotten. Tickets are \$25 for adults, 10 bucks for kids under 12.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28
“EVERY CHRISTMAS STORY EVER TOLD (AND THEN SOME!)”
The REP Theatre, Seaside, 2 and 7:30 p.m.
LoveTheREP.com
Hilarious mashup of all your holiday favorites and some you may have forgotten. Tickets are \$25 for adults, 10 bucks for kids under 12.

THURSDAY, DEC. 29
“EVERY CHRISTMAS STORY EVER TOLD (AND THEN SOME!)”
The REP Theatre, Seaside, 7:30 p.m.
LoveTheREP.com
Hilarious mashup of all your holiday favorites and some you may have forgotten. Tickets are \$25 for adults, 10 bucks for kids under 12.

Beachside Worship Services

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION EPISCOPAL CHURCH UECNA 1928 Book of Common Prayer Service, 10 a.m. Sundays, communion service 2nd and 4th Sundays, morning prayer, 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays. 66 8th Street, Shalimar, 850-651-9800.

DESTIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND LIFE CENTER Contemporary service, 9 a.m. Traditional and youth services at 11 a.m.Weekend beachside services begin at 7:30 a.m. at Henderson Beach State Park Memorial Day weekend. 200 Beach Drive, Destin. 850-837-2021.

FAITH ASSEMBLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH Sunday worship services: 8:45 and 11 a.m. Nursery and children’s church is available. Wednesday bible study at 7 p.m. Located at 306 S. Geronimo St. in Miramar Beach, three blocks west of Silver Sands Outlet Mall. 850-837-7561.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DESTIN Sunday bible study at 9:15 a.m., worship service at 10:30 a.m., prayer group at 5 p.m. Wednesday supper at 6 p.m., followed by youth-kids programs and bible study at 6:30. 201 Beach Drive, 850-837-6515.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SEAGROVE Sunday services at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 6 p.m. 4915 E Hwy. 30A, Seagrove, 850-231-2884.

GOOD NEWS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Sunday services 8:50 a.m., traditional worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday school, 11 a.m., contemporary worship, 4747 Hwy 98W, Santa Rosa Beach, 850-622-9191.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH Sundays 8 a.m. worship, 9:15 bible study, 10:30 worship, 4325 Commons Drive, 850-654-1679.

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH Beach worship at 8 a.m. at Ed Walline Park, intersection of Scenic Highway 30A and CR-393, Santa Rosa Beach. Vintage service at 10:15 a.m. at 3834 U.S. 98 West. For more info, call Pastor Jason

Scheler at 850-267-0322 or email **pastorj@hopeonthebeach.org**.

RESURRECTION CATHOLIC CHURCH Saturday vigil mass, 5 p.m.; Sunday masses, 8 and 10:30 a.m.; Daily liturgies, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.; Holy Days of Obligation, 8:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Fridays, 9-10 a.m.; Confessions, Saturdays, 4-4:45 p.m. or by appointment. 259 Miramar Beach Dr., Destin, 850-837-0358.

SAFE HARBOR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., worship service at 10:30. 801 Airport Road, Destin, 850-837-2133.

SAINT RITA CATHOLIC CHURCH Saturday Vigil mass at 5:30 p.m. year round. Sunday services at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Holy Day services, call the office please. 137 Moll Drive, Santa Rosa Beach, just off U.S. 98. 850-267-2558. **www.saintritaparish.org**.

SANTA ROSA COMMUNITY CHURCH Interdenominational service 10 a.m. Sundays. 3524 Hwy. 98W, 850-267-7599.

SHORELINE CHURCH Non-denominational modern Sunday service at 9 and 10:30 a.m. at AMC Motion Pictures in Destin Commons, and Sundays at 9 and 10:30 a.m. at Uptown Station Campus, Fort Walton Beach. 850-650-8658 or **www.shorelinechurch.net**.

ST. ANDREWS EPISCOPAL CHURCH Service at 10 a.m. Sundays. 307 Hwy. 98E, Destin, 850-650-2737

ST. MARKELLA & DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH Sunday service at 10 a.m. 400 Hwy. 98E, Mary Esther, 850-244-0822.

ST. SIMON’S ON THE SOUND EPISCOPAL CHURCH Sunday services at 8 and 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. 28 Hwy. 98W, FWB, 850-244-8621.

VILLAGE BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday services at 9 and 10:30 a.m. 101 Matthew one block south of Hwy. 98E, Destin, 850-837-8107.



The Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation’s Bob Gelardi and John Russell hang a sign as sponsors of the Justice Wing at the Pierce Family Children’s Advocacy Center in DeFuniak Springs. The DCWAF has donated over \$1 million to the Emerald Coast Children’s Advocacy Center over the last nine years.

Photo submitted by Kay Phelan.

Events

FRIDAY, DEC. 30

CRAB & CHARDONNAY FRIDAYS
Trebeache, Santa Rosa Beach, 5-9 p.m.
opentable.com/trebeache
Live music, specialty crab menu, and perfectly paired Chardy from around the world.

SATURDAY, DEC. 31

COCKTAILS & COUNTDOWN
HarborView Room Bar, HarborWalk Village, Destin, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.
850-424-0622
Live DJ and champagne toast at midnight. Festive New Year's Eve attire encouraged. VIP packages available.

GRANDE GALA NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION
Emerald Grande Ballroom, HarborWalk Village, Destin, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.
850-424-0622
Chef-selected menu and dinner, reserved seating, live music from **Cool Rayz**, champagne toast at midnight, and the ultimate view of the

fireworks over the Destin Harbor. Tickets are \$125, 21 and older only.

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER
Grande Vista Bar & Grill, HarborWalk Village, Destin, 5-11 p.m.
850-424-0621
Enjoy a three-course meal with delicious appetizers, prime rib or broiled lobster tails, and delectable desserts.

NEW YEAR'S EVE WINTER MASQUERADE BALL
Sammy's Gentlemen's Club, Okaloosa Island, 8 p.m.-4 a.m.
sammysfwb.com
A formal event you won't want to miss, with giant FREE buffet, great music and fabulous show.

NEW YEAR'S EVE STREET PARTY
HarborWalk Village, Starts at 7 p.m.
HarborWalkDestin.com
FREE live concerts from **Flow Tribe** and Journey tribute band **Departure**, two fireworks spectacles, ball drop over the

Destin Harbor at midnight and more. Party with thousands!

NOON YEAR'S EVE JUST FOR KIDS
LuLu's, Destin, 10 a.m.
Lulubuffett.com/destin
Nonstop kid-friendly fun with a sandcastle building contest, arts and crafts, inflatables, face painting, live music and more. Countdown to noon with kid-safe sparklers and huge beach ball drop.

SEASIDE FARMERS MARKET
Seaside, 8 a.m.-Noon. Behind Raw & Juicy
www.seasidefl.com
Fresh produce, baked goods, dairy products, native plants and other unique offerings.

SUNDAY, JAN. 1, 2017
BACK TO THE BASICS FITNESS
Marler Park, Fort Walton Beach, 5-6:30 p.m.
Start 2017 off right with Southern Girl Fitness. Zumba, strength training and meal prepping. Bring pen, paper, towel, water bottle and good vibes.

EIGHTH ANNUAL PENGUIN PLUNGE & PADDLE
Juana's Pagodas and Sailors Grill, Navarre Beach, 12:30 p.m.
juanaspagodas.com
Take the plunge, go on a standup paddle adventure, or do both. The event benefits **Santa Rosa Kids House** and **Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center**. After the 1:30 plunge into the Santa Rosa Sound, enjoy complimentary food, drink, live music, awards and more. Call Kim at 850-833-9237, ext. 283 or email **kim@eccac.org** for more info.

FOURTH ANNUAL POLAR BEAR PLUNGE
Ed Walline Beach Access, Santa Rosa Beach, Registration Starts at 11 a.m.

Presented by **Gulf Place** in conjunction with the **South Walton Fire District**, with suggested \$20 donation supporting the SWFD Department Relations Committee. The plunge is open to all ages and begins promptly at 1 p.m. Following the plunge, enjoy food, music and a much-deserved bonfire at Gulf Place.

TUESDAY, JAN. 3, 2017
ESSENTIAL OILS 101
The Healing Clinic of Fort Walton Beach, 6-7:30 p.m.
thehealingclinicfwb.com
A FREE lecture promoting the use of oils for holistic wellness for you and your family.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 4, 2017
COMMUNITY YOGA
Destin Hot Yoga, Miramar Beach, 3:45-4:45 p.m.
destinhotyoga.com
Five dollars per class.

SATURDAY, JAN. 7, 2017
LADIES NIGHT OUT AND OPEN HOUSE
Vertical Pole Studio, Navarre, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
clients.mindbodyonline.com
Gal pals, shopping and the aerial arts come together for a fabulous evening. FREE to attend if you RSVP at the website above, \$10 at the door.

SEASIDE FARMERS MARKET
Seaside, 8 a.m.-Noon. Behind Raw & Juicy
www.seasidefl.com
Fresh produce, baked goods, dairy products, native plants and other unique offerings.

MONDAY, JAN. 9, 2017
TWISTED SISTAS MONTHLY MEETING
Juana's Pagodas and Sailors Grill, Navarre Beach, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Find out what the Sistas have planned for the month. New members welcome.

JOIN US IN SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL NONPROFITS

Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge

Rescuing and Rehabilitating All Types of Native Florida Life

ecwildliferefuge.com





WEEKENDS DEC 8-24

Performances will be at 560 Grand Blvd, upstairs.



Sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture

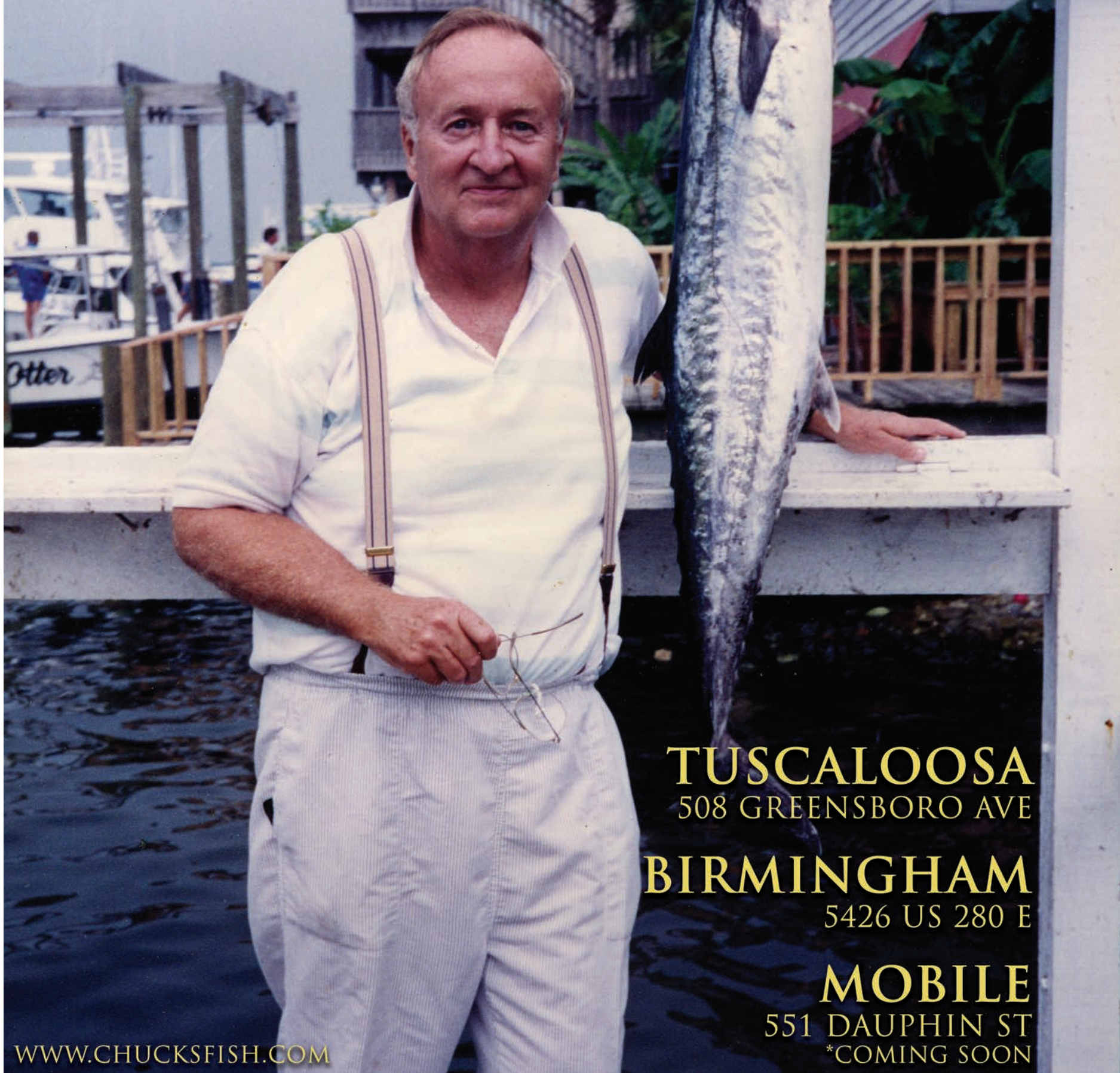
Tickets or info, call 850-684-0323 or visit **EMERALDCOASTTHEATRE.ORG**



Darian and Drake, recent Alaqua Animal Refuge Pets of the Week. Meet your new best friend every weekend at beachcomberdestin.com.

Photo submitted by Natalie Davis.

CHUCK'S FISH



TUSCALOOSA
508 GREENSBORO AVE

BIRMINGHAM
5426 US 280 E

MOBILE
551 DAUPHIN ST
*COMING SOON

WWW.CHUCKSFISH.COM

All About Us – What We’re Looking Forward to 2017

BRUCE COLLIER

Beachcomber Contributing Editor

Despite the dire predictions and/or wild optimism of my friends both in person and on social media, I intend to keep my own hopes alive in the way I have since I became a husband and a father.

There are people in this world for whom I have actual responsibility, there are people I love, and there are people I try hard to wish well. As long as I keep those priorities straight, everything else should fall into place—in 2017, and all the years to follow.

On a less lofty note, I expect my daughter Grace to move closer to being renamed the Tall Diner.

KAY PHELAN

Beachcomberland’s Reigning PR Queen

I am looking forward to sharing yet another year of amazing memories with my precious five grandchildren—under the age of nine, including 20-month-old twins—who live in Atlanta but come with my son and daughter-in-law to “Gramma Kay’s at the Beach” throughout the year.

As well, I will enjoy doing PR work and PRtography for my clients and working with a number of the wonderful nonprofit organizations that do so much in our community for so many. Here’s to peace, harmony and good health in 2017.

JILL TANNER

Clutch Media Works

Radley, my seven-month-old daughter, walking. And talking.

NATHANAEL FISHER

*Emerald Coast Theatre Company
A New York vacation.*

NIKKI HEDRICK

*Beachcomber Contributing Writer/
Photographer*

New opportunities and experiences. Some big, scary things are bubbling, and hopefully 2017 will be the year that they can exist in the real world.

SYLVIA BRYAN

Assistant Director, Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Northwest Florida State College

Having been involved with the grand opening of the Arts Center in 1997 and promoting the venue’s cultural arts programs for more than a decade, I look forward to the 20th anniversary of the Mattie Kelly Arts Center on January 21.

The center is such a great resource the college offers our community, and I’m so proud to be a part of it.

NATALIE DAVIS

Lead Adoption Coordinator, Alaqua Animal Refuge

In 2017, I am most looking forward to moving to our new property in Bruce. Also, giving animals a second chance by helping them find the best possible adopters.

NONIE MAINES

Nonie’s Ark Animal Encounters

My 20th anniversary for Nonie’s Ark.

PHIL HEPDING

30aFoodandWine.com

The birth of our fourth child in May and the launch of the 2017 Food and Wine Guide for South Walton.

DANNICA LOWERY

*Beachcomber Music Award Winner
(Among Other Things)*

What I’m looking forward to most in 2017 is the unknown. I’m excited about all of the new adventures and opportunities that are sure to present themselves in the most unlikely of ways.



Dannica Lowery ponders what 2017 will bring.



Kay Phelan’s lovely family, headed for the beaches.

CHATHAM MORGAN

Destin City Council

Celebrating my second wedding anniversary in January and my daughter’s first birthday in October, and all the moments shared with them in between. Taking my beagles on more walks. Reading good books. Catching big Cobia in the spring. Passing an effective tree ordinance at City Hall to prohibit the clear cutting of lots around town. I’m a simple man.

JOE FINGAS

Bluesman Extraordinaire

Take your pick. In 2017, I’m looking forward to (1) piano lessons, (2) a return to my amateur boxing career, (3) going back to Cali, (4) gender reassignment surgery to become Bubba McQueen Blues Diva, (5) Dec. 31, 2017.

SEAN DIETRICH

Renaissance Man

I’m looking forward to the privilege of looking forward to 2018.

CHRIS MANSON

Beachcomber Editor

I can’t wait to see what they’re going to rename the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport next year. Also looking forward to more mattress stores and AJ’s locations opening up in 2017.

Ah, Spa... 15 Questions for Kim DeOrsey

By Zandra Wolfgram

Does spending your day lounging in a spa sanctuary in the heart of a luxury hotel sound like a dream job to you? We sat down with one of the country’s most sought after spa experts to get to know her, hear all about the new Salamander Spa at the Henderson in Destin, and...discover the secret to youth.

*Well, we can’t tell you everything, but here are 15 things we can share from our time spent with knowledgeable, kinetic and kindhearted **Kim DeOrsey**.*

1. You are a powerhouse in the spa industry, and we are fortunate to have you here on the Emerald Coast. What are some highlights of your career?

PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, because it set the stage for other resort spas. The Club at Ibis in West Palm Beach, which was a \$33 million capital project that brought wellness into a residential spa, and then at the Omphoy Ocean Resort & Spa in Palm Beach, which only had three treatment rooms, but was voted No. 1 Resort Spa in the United States by *Condé Nast Traveler* magazine.

2. You moved here for this job. How do you like Destin so far?

I love the family-friendly aspect of the Destin community. As a mom of three kids, it’s been nice and rewarding for all of us. My son Remington is eight and he has been traveling the South for soccer and lacrosse. My daughter Elle is 10 and she has already danced a solo in one recital that took her to Mississippi. My son Tyler is college age, and we’ve been able to get out on the water boating. So the sports and arts, in particular, have been wonderful and my kids are thriving.

3. What drew you to the health and wellness field?

I was always drawn to health and wellness, especially nutrition and working out since I was in high school. At 15, I was teaching gymnastics to little kids. So, taking care of yourself and being mindful was important to me at a fairly young age.

4. Did you grow up in a healthy household?

Yes, my grandmother Irene lived to be 103, and not long before she passed away she was still playing tennis and doing Yoga. She never mixed proteins and carbs and ate lots of fruits. She always took good care of her skin. She took me to Lancome store for makeup and taught me how to take care of my skin.

5. You are of the belief that wellness is a lifestyle. How so?

It’s definitely a lifestyle. When my kids were young, it was just a part of how we lived. If they were upset, it was me telling them “use your breathing.” Now my kids are into activities and athletics, so they have grown up understanding how important it is to balance the body with sleep, eating healthy, and not over scheduling.

6. How do you incorporate your wellness philosophy at Salamander Spa?

We have developed an entire wellness program that begins with our sleeping rooms. We created a wellness crate that contains everything you need to enjoy the spa and fitness center including a wellness mat. Instead of chips and sweets, we have a wellbeing bar. You can do an eye mask, a soak in the tub or enjoy a nourishing



spirulina exfoliating mask. We even have a journal so you can reflect and write down your thoughts and relax your mind. You’ve heard of a Wake Up call, we have a Turn Down call. We call our guests with a gentle reminder to unplug, detach and focus on themselves for a good night’s rest.

7. What are some current wellness trends you are embracing at Salamander?

One is just slowing down and being mindful to not be so rushed. Another is education, which comes in the format of wellness workshops. We have wellness cards for our guest to take home that include a recipe with a Salamander Spa ingredient. For example, we have one for Lavender Truffles. It’s a chocolate truffle made with lavender and food grade-sea salt. Another big trend is getting outside more, so when you have a spa appointment we’ll encourage you to enjoy a bike ride or paddle boarding as part of your time at the Henderson.

8. What is the Salamander sound bowl all about?

Music is a tool to use to relax, and we’re incorporating sound therapy as well. Here at Salamander, we embrace the spa experience upon arrival. We have a hammered metal bowl with a soft mallet, we ding it and guest hover over it and feel that vibration. It’s a singing bowl and it’s quite powerful for some. It’s important to us that our guests begin their wellness experience prior to even going into the treatment room.

9. What’s the most popular spa treatment?

The aromatherapy massage. You get to customize it by choosing between lavender, neroli or ginger. The fragrance you are drawn to is what your body needs the most.

10. Why should we “ask the experts”?

People are always looking to take care of themselves and there are so many things to use. Some work and some don’t. As a professional and as a world-class resort, we align with providers who are educated and best in

class. We search out what our clients and guests should spend their money on, educate them on the trends, and customize regimens that work for them and their skin.

11. Tell us how to make the most of our time at the spa.

When you schedule, break up your services so they are not back-to-back. Arrive early, have a cup of tea and unwind. Come prepared to enjoy the wet area. We have a whirlpool, a steam room and an experiential shower with three cycles—tropical rainforest, arctic blast and detoxifying. And leave plenty of time for the pool and beach...your mind needs time to unwind and embrace what just happened.

12. You are a professional in a busy hotel and a single mother of three. What’s your secret?

You just have to make it happen. Today, I got up at 5 a.m. and hit the gym. I try to do that three mornings a week. With my kids, it’s getting up and going outside for a hike. I work, but we have dinner as a family. I fit it in.

13. What is your advice to make this year the best year yet?

I want everyone to get out there with their families to ride a bike, and enjoy what the Emerald Coast has to offer. Put your feet in the sand more and be more playful.

14. What’s unique to the Henderson Salamander Spa?

We have specially equipped spa guest rooms, a Gulf view, and a bank of elevators that takes our guests from the guest rooms right to the spa.

15. What does the Salamander signify?

It’s so inspirational. Our name stands for beauty, strength and courage, and that is something each of wish we had each and every day. So it’s also about each of our personal stories. Every day we strive for that, and we’re here to help everyone be the best that they can be.

GRACE Rides – A Love for Horses and Special People

By Samantha Lambert

Melissa Wood sits straight up in the saddle as she rides around the ring on Levi. Two side-walkers and a lead walker guide her and Levi gently through their paces. Melissa gives the commands to halt and go. The whole time she is riding, there is a huge smile on her face. That is the beauty of **GRACE Rides**, a therapeutic riding program in Niceville for individuals with special needs.

GRACE Rides started in 2008 working out of the Oak Heaven Stables equestrian facility in Niceville. The goal was to continue the good work of RACE (Riding for Adults and Children with Exceptionalities), Okaloosa County's first therapeutic riding program. RACE was a program that operated in Baker from 1996 to 2006 and was run by volunteers.

Sherry Hall and her husband Steve founded GRACE Rides. Sherry grew up in Northwest Florida on a working farm with horses. She also gained knowledge of special needs students when she was young by volunteering in special education classes taught by her mother. She graduated from Florida State University in 1982 with degrees in both Clinical Psychology and Rehabilitation Counseling/Education. She also received a Juris Doctorate degree from FSU in 1986. Sherry has devoted herself full-time to GRACE Rides since 2010.

GRACE Rides focuses primarily on Equine-Assisted Activities and Therapies (EATT) along with Equine-Assisted Learning (EAL). GRACE Rides helps individuals who are autistic, have Down syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, ADD/ADHD, traumatic brain injuries, and more. The rhythmic nature of the horse's gait and the animal's body heat provide a natural vehicle for physical therapy by loosening tight muscles, helping to strengthen the rider's muscle tone, and encouraging digestion and circulation. All of this helps to improve the lives and community of each of the program participants, each of their family members, each of the service horses, and each of the volunteers.

GRACE Rides incorporates horse rescue, rehabilitation, and retirement to provide therapeutic riding, equine assisted activities, and horsemanship programs to individuals with special needs. The horses vary in size from small to large, and also vary in movement. Each horse has been tested vigorously prior to acceptance into the program to ensure that their talents and dispositions are a good match for

the program participants.

As the riders interact with the horses they develop respect and love for the animals. Because horses require a great deal of attention, the riders bond quickly with them as they groom, feed and ride them. They develop responsibility, patience and compassion as they care for the horses.

Program participant **Melissa Wood** is 24 and has a brain injury. She started coming to GRACE Rides about eight years ago. "Melissa loves riding," says mom Kim. "It helps her balance and strengthens her core. She is not afraid of the horses at all and wants to ride."

Nathan Taylor started coming to GRACE Rides about a month ago. He is 16 and has Down syndrome. Today he is riding Sonny. "This program gives Nathan something to look forward to," says his mother Denise. "He really enjoys it. It has helped him with his speech as well by giving commands to the horse. He talks about it at school to the other students."

Presently GRACE Rides serves an average of 35 riders a week and has a waiting list. The areas served are from Pensacola to Crestview and Baker and out to South Walton. All program participants are encouraged to donate toward the cost of operations if they are able to, but no rider is turned away due to lack of financial resources. GRACE Rides depends on the support of individuals and organizations in the community who give of their time, money and resources.

"There are so many blessings with what we do," says Hall. "The kids thrive and benefit with daily living skills. Plus, we give our horses—who are show horses who have aged out—a second chance."

GRACE Rides has many volunteers who help out assisting riders, keeping the facility running smoothly and helping with daily horse pampering. The GRACE Rides family also includes volunteers Anne Jennette, who has nearly completed her PATH Certification (the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International); and Trisha Everton, who has her PATH certification.

Last month, ground was broken for a new facility on 40 acres in DeFuniak Springs, which will double the amount of individuals who can be served. There will be six tacking and grooming bays for participants to work with the horses inside the barn. In Phase 1, the barn, arena and sensory arena will be built. In Phase 2, a cover for the arena will

be built. In Phase 3, an auditorium, cafeteria and camp cabins will be built.

Future plans also include a program for military veterans dealing with PTSD and a wellness program for active duty military returning from

deployment. GRACE Rides also hope to set up a work study program with the ARC, a nonprofit that assists people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Learn more at gracerides.com.



Melissa Wood



Nathan Taylor

Photos by Samantha Lambert.

Beachcomberland Places

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BOOKSTORES

READ IT AGAIN Used and rare books. Browse inventory and shop online at www.readitagain1.com or just come see us at 703 John Sims Parkway in Niceville, just one block west of Niceville High School. Hours of operation are Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-6 p.m. We have a little bit of everything—popular reads, new releases, fiction, nonfiction, fantasy and science fiction, mystery and suspense, romance, history, military and so much more. 850-279-4646.

EDUCATIONAL

EMERALD COAST SCIENCE CENTER A unique museum allowing visitors to touch and use the exhibits, including optical illusions, a nature room and a wind tunnel. 31 SW Memorial Parkway, Fort Walton Beach, 850-664-1261. www.ecscience.org.

FARMERS' MARKETS

30A FARMERS' MARKETS Two convenient locations. Contact Diane at 850-499-4697 for more info.

- **GRAND BOULEVARD FARMERS’ MARKET AT SANDESTIN** 600 Grand Boulevard, Miramar Beach. Saturdays year-round, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **30A FARMERS’ MARKET IN ROSEMARY BEACH COMMUNITY** Sundays year-round, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursdays (Memorial Day through Labor Day), 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

GOLF

REGATTA BAY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB This award-winning 18-hole course offers an extraordinary golfing experience for players of all skill levels and was named one of *Golf Digest’s* Top Places to Play. Equipment rental available. 465 Regatta Bay Blvd., Destin, 850-337-8080. www.regattabay.com.

SANTA ROSA GOLF & BEACH CLUB Referred to as the “Purest golf in the Florida Panhandle” by *Golf Magazine*, this 18-hole, par 72 course offers five sets of tees and a challenge for every skill level of handicap. Situated on 80 pristine acres in the heart of Santa Rosa Beach, this course has a unique character only found around the Highway 30A corridor. Holes three through five wind around a complex of dunes, all within a few hundred yards of the Gulf of Mexico. Dining, driving range, putting green and club rentals available. 334 Golf Club Drive, Santa Rosa Beach, 850-267-2229. www.santarosaclub.com.

MARINE PARKS/ AQUARIUMS

GULFARIUM MARINE ADVENTURE PARK Delight in watching dolphins leap and

sea lions play during spectacular shows! Or participate and interact directly with these and other remarkable marine animals during interactive stingrays, seals and penguins during interactive programming (advance reservations required). Enjoy educational exhibits and beautiful ocean views. Open daily at 9 a.m. 1010 Miracle Strip Parkway SE, Fort Walton Beach, 850-243-9046. www.gulfarium.com.

MUSEUMS

DESTIN HISTORY & FISHING MUSEUM Open year round, Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call for holiday hours of operation. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and military and \$3 for children. 108 Stahlman Avenue, Destin, 850-837-6611.

INDIAN TEMPLE MOUND MUSEUM Artifacts and displays showing the rich Indian history of this area. 139 Hwy. 98SE, FWB, 850-833-9595.

MUSIC STORES

LEITZ MUSIC Guitars, bass, drums and keyboards, plus recording, DJ and PA equipment. Sales, repairs and lessons. Gibson, Fender, PRS, Taylor, Martin, Ibanez and more. Open Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sundays noon-6 p.m. Now located in Uptown Station, Fort Walton Beach, 850-863-1099. www.facebook.com/LeitzMusicFWB.

PARKS & PUBLIC BEACH ACCESS

BEASLEY WAYSIDE PARK Picnic tables, public beach area, barbecue grills, bathhouse, and restrooms. Gulf side of Okaloosa Island, Hwy. 98W.

BLACKWATER RIVER STATE PARK NW of FWB off Hwy. 90, You can catch sight of lots of wildlife while camping, canoeing, hiking, and fishing. Milton, 850-983-5363.

BLUE MOUNTAIN BEACH Public parking for this access is located at the south end of CR-83 and Scenic Highway 30-A.

BRACKIN WAYSIDE PARK Gulf side of Okaloosa Island on Hwy. 98W. Facilities include restaurants, saloons, children’s playground, beach volleyball, three beach accesses, showers, public restrooms, and picnic table.

CAMP HELEN STATE PARK offers hiking, birding, beachcombing, swimming, fishing, canoeing and kayaking along with nine historic buildings. Located at 23937 Panama City Beach Parkway (U.S. 98), 12 miles east of 331, seven miles west of Highway 79. 850-233-5059.






CESSNA BAY Picnic tables, parking, rest rooms and boat access. 1476 N. CR-393.

CLEMENT E. TAYLOR CITY PARK This park is named after one of Destin’s early settlers and is on Choctawhatchee Bay. Chock full of shade trees, there are picnic areas and restrooms, but no camping. Destin, off Calhoun Drive.

DUNE ALLEN In Dune Allen beach this access has parking, but no bathrooms, showers or picnic area. 5753 Hwy 30-A W., Santa Rosa Beach.

ED WALLINE A large public beach access in South Walton, providing handicapped

DESTIN EAST PASS TIDE AND SUNSET CHART

				
12.15	Low High	9:07am 10:48pm	6:36am 4:47pm	99
12.16	Low High	9:58am 11:33pm	6:36am 4:48pm	95
12.17	Low	10:39am	6:37am 4:48pm	89
12.18	High Low	12:12am 11:06am	6:37am 4:49pm	81
12.19	High Low	12:40am 11:15am	6:38am 4:49pm	72
12.20	High High	12:31am 8:18pm	6:38am 4:50pm	62
12.21	Low High	10:16am 7:00pm	6:39am 4:50pm	52
12.22	Low High	8:04am 6:43pm	6:39am 4:51pm	42
12.23	Low High	5:15am 6:49pm	6:40am 4:51pm	33
12.24	Low High	5:22am 7:08pm	6:40am 4:52pm	24
12.25	Low High	5:48am 7:34pm	6:41am 4:52pm	17
12.26	Low High	6:22am 8:06pm	6:41am 4:53pm	10
12.27	Low High	6:59am 8:41pm	6:42am 4:54pm	5
12.28	Low High	7:37am 9:18pm	6:42am 4:54pm	2
12.29	Low High	8:14am 9:54pm	6:42am 4:55pm	0
12.30	Low High	8:4am 10:30pm	6:42am 4:55pm	0
12.31	Low High	9:20am 11:06pm	6:43am 4:56pm	2
1.1	Low High	9:58am 11:45pm	6:43am 4:57pm	6
1.2	Low	10:22am	6:43am 4:58pm	12
1.3	High Low	12:22am 10:39am	6:43am 4:58pm	19
1.4	High High	12:56am 8:01pm	6:44am 4:59pm	28
1.5	Low High	10:17am 6:13pm	6:44am 5:00pm	39
1.6	Low High	3:22am 5:56pm	6:44am 5:01pm	50
1.7	Low High	3:44am 6:11pm	6:44am 5:01pm	61
1.8	Low High	4:33am 6:45pm	6:44am 5:02pm	72
1.9	Low High	5:27am 7:29pm	6:44am 5:03pm	82
1.10	Low High	6:24am 8:19pm	6:44am 5:04pm	90
1.11	Low High	7:19am 9:10pm	6:44am 5:05pm	96

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parking, picnic tables, restrooms and showers. Intersection of Hwy 30-A and CR-393.

EDEN GARDENS STATE PARK An historic homestead under majestic moss draped oaks with a home surrounded by lawns and seasonal gardens. Tours of the home are Thursday through Monday hourly beginning at 10 a.m. with the last tour at 3 p.m. The park and picnic areas are open daily from 8 a.m. to sunset and located on CR-395 north off Hwy 98 in Point Washington. Call 850-231-4214 for more information.

GRAYTON BEACH STATE RECREATION AREA Camping, picnics, hiking, swimming, saltwater fishing, and boating. Showers and electricity are part of the amenities. Access from S. Hwy. 30-A, South Walton, 850-267-8300.

GRAYTON DUNES Handicapped and public parking plus beach access. Behind the Red Bar in Grayton Beach.

GULF SHORE MANOR Public restrooms, handicapped and public parking. 3468 E. Hwy 30-A, Seagrove Beach.

GULFVIEW HEIGHTS Located at the end of Gulfview Heights St, behind Goatfeather's restaurant, this access offers parking, picnic areas and restrooms.

HENDERSON BEACH STATE PARK This park has it all: camping, swimming area sheltered picnic areas, grills, and restrooms. But there is no boat ramp and jet skis and other

personal watercraft are prohibited. 17000 Hwy. 98W, Destin, 850-837-7550.

INLET BEACH This area offers handicapped and public parking, restrooms and dune walkovers to the beach. 438 S. Orange St. in Inlet Beach.

LEGION BAY Picnic tables, public parking, boat ramp and restrooms. Intersection of Ponce de Leon and Crest Dr, 191 Crest Dr, Sandestin.

MARIER MEMORIAL PARK Public beach area, picnic tables, barbecue grills, boat ramp, restrooms and bathhouse. Bay side of Okaloosa Island, off Santa Rosa Blvd.

MIRAMAR BEACH ACCESS Parking with public beach access. Scenic Hwy 98 and Driftwood Rd, adjacent to Pompano Joe's.

TOPSAIL HILL STATE PRESERVE Two major freshwater coastal dune lakes are located within the 1,600-acre preserve. Campground entrance and day use entrance are located on West Scenic Highway 30-A, 1/4 mile south of U.S. 98. 850-267-0299. www.floridastateparks.org/topsailhill

PETS

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INLET BEACH
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850-213-3127

Cayce Collins, Fashionista

Interviewed by Charles Morgan III

Cayce Collins is busy. She's the kind of person who has more energy than people are supposed to have. In addition to raising a family and training a devoted crowd of people to become more fit, Collins is carving out an unusual career in our tourist-driven area. She designs swimsuits.

How did you get here?

My family moved to Destin when I was two years old, and I have lived in the area for most of my life. I attended Choctawhatchee High School where my mom is a teacher. I went to college in Tallahassee at Florida State. After college, I moved to Colorado where I did a short internship and skied *a lot*.

I returned to Destin in 2003, where I met and married my musician husband, Dan. We have three children—Ashton (my stepson) is 13, Clara is nine, and Murphy is five.

What have you been doing since you moved back here for good?

I have been a tutor and I've given art lessons to children. Most recently, I have tapped into my zeal for fitness and become a group fitness instructor. Teaching fitness has been incredibly fulfilling. Partnering with clients to set and surpass individual goals is rewarding. I also believe instructing fitness classes supplements my swimwear designs by teaching women to feel confident and strong in whatever shape body they live in.

I know a bunch of people—several of my family members—who stumble to your fitness class way too early in the morning. They all love it.

It's a boot camp style workout. We utilize repetitive lifting of light weights, Yoga, Pilates, and cardio/endurance exercises. I keep it interesting by mixing things up.

How does one design swimsuits?

The inspiration is architectural in nature. A lot of it has to do with the structure of the female body. That drives my creativity.

Are the swimsuits designed for six-foot-tall Victoria's Secret models?

I'm a mom—I've delivered two children. At first I designed for skinny models. Now I'm more creative, and I've found success by creating things that I know I would wear.

How are they produced?

I used to make a digitized pattern and would send it overseas for production. Now I'm looking for domestic companies to work with. I've been a seamstress all my life, and I have others who help with the process.

Is this a good area to be a clothing designer?

Fashion can start anywhere. The biggest market for swimwear is in Miami. The details of production are intimidating. But I have been so humbled by the progress I've made and the feedback I have received over the past few years.



All photos courtesy of Jim Clark.

I was invited to show a collection at South Walton Fashion Week in October 2016, and was named a finalist out of 12 established designers. I also showed collections at SWFW in 2013 and 2015. I had a swimsuit on the cover of *VIE* Magazine in the summer

of 2016 and an article in the Northwest Florida *Daily News* in November of 2016.

It's Christmas. People have to buy gifts. How can someone get one of your swimsuits?

Caycecollinsswimwear is the Facebook page.

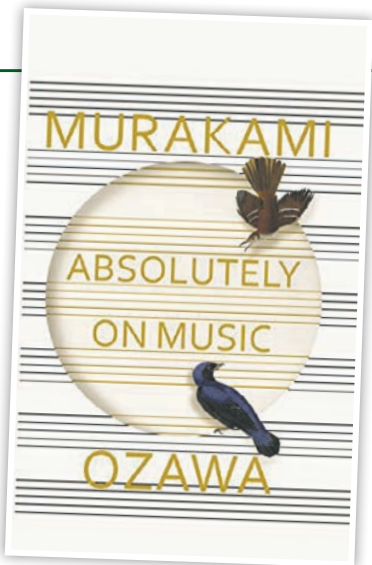
Recommended Reading

Haruki Murakami

Absolutely on Music—Conversations with Seiji Ozawa
Alfred A. Knopf

Best-selling Japanese novelist and nonfiction writer Murakami is also a music buff and a pal of legendary conductor Seiji Ozawa. He recorded a series of conversations with Ozawa, then set them down in book form (actually more in play form). The dialogue starts off with some rather esoteric musical disquisitions, but if you stick with it you'll be glad you did. Especially good are the parts where Ozawa talks about his education and apprenticeship with guys like Leonard Bernstein, Herbert von Karajan, Eugene Ormandy and other baton-wielding musical titans. Ozawa comes off as a nice guy, modest and good humored.

- Bruce Collier



EDITOR'S PICKS – BOOKS OF THE YEAR

Pop Superstars on Audio, Narrating Their Stories. Bruce Springsteen's *Born to Run* may be the man's most intimate recording since 1982's *Nebraska*. It's also his longest, clocking in at around 18 hours, but you won't notice as you take the long way home just to get to the end of another thrilling chapter. Phil Collins' *Not Dead Yet: The Memoir* seems minor by comparison, but the ex-Genesis singer and drummer has retained the knack for compelling storytelling.

Can I also mention Amy Schumer's *The Girl With the Lower Back Tattoo*, since she's the reigning rock star of the comedy world?

The Promise Falls Tourist Development People Have Their Work Cut Out for Them. Linwood Barclay published two great works of fiction this year—*Far from True* and *The Twenty-Three*. The latter sort of ties everything up but leaves you wanting more. Thank God the author is so prolific.

That's Why They Call Him the Master. Stephen King's *End of Watch*, the superb finale to his Mr.

Mercedes trilogy, took a preposterous premise and made it believable thanks in no small part to characters we've grown to love.

Series Highlights. Ace Atkins' *Robert B. Parker's Slow Burn*, the writer's best take on Spenser yet, left the door wide open for some exciting follow-up developments. Michael Connelly's LAPD detective Harry Bosch, on the heels of the excellent second season of the Amazon TV series, took on two pulse-pounding cases in *The Wrong Side of Goodbye*. And Lee Child's latest Jack Reacher adventure, *Night School*, took readers back to our hero's Army days.

Florida Writers Rule. Carl Hiaasen's *Razor Girl* and Dave Barry's *Best. State. Ever.* Both of 'em hilarious and thought provoking.

Best Rediscovered Classic. W.C. Fields' *Fields for President*, first published in 1939. A politically incorrect celebrity loudmouth in the Oval Office? Never gonna happen.

- Chris Manson

UPCOMING BOOKS

DEC. 20

- Francis Ford Coppola, *The Godfather Notebook*
- Amy Ramos, *The Complete Ketogenic Diet for Beginners: Your Essential Guide to Living the Keto Lifestyle*
- Sam Weinman, *Win at Losing: How Our Biggest Setbacks Can Lead to Our Greatest Gains*
- Star Trek: The Original Series Adult Coloring Book*
- The World Almanac and Book of Facts 2017*

DEC. 27

- W.E.B. Griffin and William E. Butterworth IV, *Curtain of Death (Clandestine Operations Series)*
- Kayla Itsines, *The Bikini Body 28-Day Healthy Eating & Lifestyle Guide*
- William W. Johnstone, *Preacher's Hellstorm*
- Michael Joseph Oswald, *Your Guide to the National Parks*
- Cook's Country One-Pan Wonders: Fuss-Free Meals for Your Sheet Pan, Dutch Oven, Skillet, Roasting Pan, Casserole, and Slow Cooker*

JAN. 3

- Harry S. Dent Jr., *The Sale of a Lifetime: How the Great Bubble Burst of 2017-2019 Can Make You Rich*
- William R. Forstchen, *The Final Day (John Matherson Series)*
- Thomas Perry, *The Old Man*
- Oprah Winfrey, *Food, Health, and Happiness: 115 On-Point Recipes for Great Meals and a Better Life*
- Stuart Woods, *Below the Belt (Stone Barrington Series)*

JAN. 10

- Bret Baier, *Three Days in January: Dwight Eisenhower's Final Mission*
- Chris Bohjalian, *The Sleepwalker*
- Cleo Coyle, *Dead Cold Brew (Coffeehouse Mystery Series)*
- Peter Swanson, *Her Every Fear*
- Brad Taylor, *Ring of Fire (Pike Logan Series)*

Sources: www.amazon.com, www.netgalley.com



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Movies

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DEC. 16

Collateral Beauty. Will Smith, Helen Mirren.
A Kind of Murder. Jessica Biel, Patrick Wilson.
Neruda. Gael Garcia Bernal, Luis Gnecco.
Rogue One: A Star Wars Story. Felicity Jones, Diego Luna.
Solace. Anthony Hopkins, Jeffrey Dean Morgan.

DEC. 21

Assassin's Creed. Michael Fassbender, Marion Cotillard.
The Autopsy of Jane Doe. Emile Hirsch, Brian Cox.
Passengers. Chris Pratt, Jennifer Lawrence.
Patriots Day. Mark Wahlberg, J.K. Simmons.

DEC. 23

A Monster Calls. Sigourney Weaver, Felicity Jones.
Silence. Liam Neeson, Adam Driver, Andrew Garfield. Directed by Martin Scorsese.
Why Him? Bryan Cranston, James Franco.

DEC. 25

Fences. Denzel Washington, Viola Davis.
Live by Night. Ben Affleck, Sienna Miller.
20th Century Women. Annette Bening, Elle Fanning.

JAN. 6, 2017

Amityville: The Awakening. Jennifer Jason Leigh, Bella Thorne.
Hidden Figures. Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer.
Underworld: Blood Wars. Kate Beckinsale, Theo James.

UPCOMING DVD/BLU-RAY/VOD RELEASES

DEC. 20

The Magnificent Seven. Denzel Washington, Chris Pratt.
Storks. Animated. Voices of Andy Samberg, Katie Crown.
Sully. Tom Hanks, Laura Linney. Directed by Clint Eastwood.

DEC. 27

The House That Screamed (Blu-ray). 1970 Spanish slasher "classic."
Snowden. Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Shailene Woodley. Directed by Oliver Stone.

JAN. 10, 2017

Dead of Winter (Blu-ray). Mary Steenburgen, Roddy McDowall.
Deepwater Horizon. Mark Wahlberg, Kurt Russell, John Malkovich, Kate Hudson.

Source: www.rottentomatoes.com



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So Long, 2016 – The Year in Dining (and Drinking)

It's been a more varied year in dining, one with fewer restaurants than I can recall since I began writing this column. My list of dining establishments tops out at 16—Charlie's Burger Bar, Tommy Mattonie's, Airstream Row at Seaside (I counted it as one, since the Tiny Diner and I pieced together a progressive lunch there in February), La Paz, Chanticleer Eatery and Bakery, Destin Diner, Brotula's, LuLu's, Trebeache, Stewby's, Zesty Baguette Bistro, McGuire's Sushi, Mother Earth's Cafe, Boshamps, Burrito del Sol, and Chiringo Grayton Beach.

My Just the Liquor Talking column this year touched on gin, mezcal, blended Scotch, Florida distilled spirits, bourbons for under \$20, Canadian whisky, and Armagnac (in this issue). Research, as always, is arduous, but the column has opened my eyes to some spirits I might otherwise have ignored.

I hope to always keep my perspective, learning and sharing what I learn as I go. Personally, I am very proud to know that within easy driving distance (Crestview), first-rate, locally

distilled spirits are being produced at Peaden Brothers and Timber Creek. And cheers to the local bars and liquor stores that stock their product.

As always, my family and I enjoyed good eats this year. Once again there were some finds, some places I wish I'd discovered years ago, and some more places I hope will survive and flourish. Looking back at all the wonderful area restaurants I've dined at over the years—the reviewed and the unreviewed—it's discouraging to consider how few are still around. Here are some highlights.

Landmark Event of the Year. My daughter Grace (the Tiny Diner) ordered on her own from a server for the first time.

Longest Meal. My lunch with TD on Airstream Row. Those Seaside Frisbee games...

Favorite Beverage. The Old Fashioned made with Bulleit Rye, cane syrup and a Luxardo cherry, at Trebeache in Redfish Village. Such drinks could lure me away from martinis.

Favorite Appetizer. Trebeache served an outstanding crispy duck lettuce wrap. Big enough to share, it was (as I wrote), "leg and breast, perfectly cooked, juicy and lush without being fatty." The shredded mirliton slaw was perfect. LuLu's Lower Alabama Caviar—black-eyed peas, chopped onions and sweet peppers in vinaigrette—was also addictive. Boshamps' Oysters Bienville with shrimp and lump crab gets a Very Honorable Mention.

Favorite Main Course. There were so many contenders—Tommy Mattonie's smoked meatloaf, Brotula's mustard-and-beer boiled mussels and shrimp, the pompano with baby bok choy at Trebeache, Barefoot BBQ's brisket sliders, Stewby's shockingly inexpensive fried calamari, Burrito del Sol's super shrimp tacos, and Boshamps' swordfish. This is a close one, but the pompano won by a nose (or maybe a gill).

Favorite Dessert. The pistachio crème brulee and strawberry glacage at Trebeache. To quote myself, the glacage "manages to be both homey and elegant. The crème brulee was

just plain outstanding—crunchy, creamy, nutty and garnished with a pair of sugar-dusted biscotti." I also loved the warm triple berry tart at Mother Earth's Cafe, the lemon cream cake at Chanticleer, and Tommy Mattonie's key lime crepe. God bless all restaurants that use real whipped cream.

Favorite Restaurant of 2016. I can't say I ate a bad meal at any of them. I'd gladly go back to all of them. But based on the above categories, I have to say it was Trebeache. From start to finish—atmosphere, service, bar, app, mains and dessert—there were no missteps. Special thanks to our server Courtney, whose kindness and demeanor brought forth TD's best manners while we dined.

Find of the Year. Stewby's Seafood Shanty—fresh, delicious, affordable.

Place I Wish I'd Been Eating at for Years. See previous paragraph.

On behalf of myself, the TD, and our pals at The Beachcomber, Happy New Year and we'll see you in the dining room.

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Armagnac – Drink Like a Musketeer

By Bruce Collier

Armagnac isn't that well known outside of France where, at age 700, it is the oldest brandy distilled in that country. Though exported worldwide, unlike its superstar cousin Cognac, Armagnac sales are pretty limited.

Armagnac takes its name from the place where it is distilled. Armagnac is located in the southwest of France, in the region known as Gascony—home of Cyrano de Bergerac, D'Artagnan (the Fourth Musketeer), and *foie gras*, that fatty, luxurious, un-PC goose and duck liver so evocative of classic French gastronomy. Truffles come from there as well.

Armagnac comes from three principal districts (*appellations*)—Bas-Armagnac, Armagnac-Tenereze, and Haut-Armagnac. Bas-Armagnac seems to be the most commonly available, at least where I looked.

Armagnac is *eau-de-vie* (“water of life,” which is also what “whisky” means). It is distilled from a blend of white wine grapes—the main ones are Ugni blanc, Folle blanche, Columbard and a disease-resistant hybrid called Baco 22A. Unlike Cognac, which is

distilled twice, Armagnac is distilled only once, in a column still, at around 104 proof (52 percent alcohol) It is aged in oak barrels of differing varieties, local preferred. Most Armagnac is bottled at around 80 proof, though there are higher-proof bottlings.

There are six general classifications, based on time spent aging in the barrel. VS is at least two years old, VSOP at least four, XO and Napoleon at least six, Hors d'Age at least 10, and Armagnac of a vintage year. The age refers to that of the *youngest* Armagnac in the blend.

From its creation, Armagnac enjoyed a high reputation, especially in the Catholic Church. A 14th century French priest, Prior Vital DuFour (later a cardinal) listed the “forty virtues” of Armagnac. He said it healed wounds, restored paralyzed limbs (with massage), and cured both gout and hepatitis (not likely, but tell that to a French cardinal).

If Cognac is the Scotch whisky of France, Armagnac would probably be the bourbon. Its image is that of country, small batch artisan production, family tradition. With a touch of musketeer swagger.

I try to buy locally for these articles, but this time I had to range afield to find Armagnac. I bought one locally, four from an online liquor dealer, and one from a department store in Paris last year. Prices ranged from the mid-\$30 to mid-\$70 range. All were from Bas-Armagnac.

I tried all of these neat, in a Glencairn glass.

TARIQUET VSOP

80 Proof

\$42.99 (Found Locally)

The nose is mild, with a touch of sweet-and-sour sauce. The taste is sweet—grapes, sherry, cream and vanilla. Both fruitiness and body become fuller with airing. It is warming, peppery, with notes of fruit peel, banana, wood, butter, pears and honey.

MARIE DUFFAU NAPOLEON

80 Proof

\$34.96

The nose is toasty, with a sherry-like nuttiness (“rancio”). The taste is grape soda, sherry and whipped cream. With air you get raisins, figs and concentrated fruit preserves, caramel and fruit sauce. There is no burn, just lushness and warmth. It was the cheapest I tried, and a great value.

DARTIGALONGUE, XO

80 Proof

\$56.99

Reportedly 10 years old, this one's nose comes on strong, with ripe pears, candied fruit, fig preserves, sweet apple juice and fig bars. The taste is lighter and drier than the nose promises, with spice, pepper and canned peaches. The finish is short.

TARIQUET CASK STRENGTH

102 Proof

Around \$63.99

I bought this in Paris. It's unusual, not only because of the higher proof, but also because it's made exclusively from Folle blanche grapes. Folle blanche reportedly is used for its aroma. This one is all about the nose—canned fruit in syrup, toasty toffee. After an hour I could smell overripe peaches and nectarines. The taste is on the dry side, with that distinctive nuttiness predominating. There's warmth, but no burn.

CHATEAU DE LAUBADE HORS D'AGE (Minimum 10 Years Old)

80 Proof

\$49.96

There's no age statement (“intemporel” or “timeless”). The color had a pinkish tinge, like a dark rosé wine, in contrast to the rich browns of the others. The nose is earthy, almost funky, like soil. The taste is less fruity, drier, more austere and woody. There's that Spanish rancio again, with subtle raisin and fig notes on the finish. This was the driest Armagnac I tasted. It would make a great aperitif.

DELORD (25 Years Old)

80 Proof

\$74.99

I had great expectations for this one, so I let it breathe about five hours before I sampled it. It's deep brown, like rum. The nose is pure dried fruit—raisins, figs, then warmed honey and sweet cured tobacco. The taste is sweet and full-bodied, with heat and some fire, which smoothes down to a low smolder. It's a regular dessert cart—jam, fruit and nut, vanilla and almond pastry, even some chutney and garam masala. This one is for the fireplace, the leather books and the deep thoughts.



Seventeen Places to Check Out While You Ring in '17

By Joni Williams

Are your New Year's Eve plans the same as your old year's? Are you looking to break free of that Auld Lang grind? You came to the right place, friends. We have suggestions galore for where to go and what to do that are sure to shake up your routine and practically guarantee good times in the New Year and beyond.

DIY Dive Crawl. Forget the stereotype of a dark, seedy bar with questionable character. That's so 20th century. There's no better place to find happy times—or the cackle of a karaoke machine—than at a dive bar.

The best place to launch your own personalized dive crawl is Downtown FoWal. In a half-mile stretch, you can find at least a half-dozen dives, pubs, brew halls and taverns, including **Coasters**, where cheap drinks rule, and the **Salty Duck**, where it's literally all fun and games—everything from billiards to beer pong. They have a stellar selection of brews, too.

But why stop with two? Other crawl-worthy pubs in the area include **Fokker's**, home of the loaded "Mother Fokker" pizza and killer happy hours, **Props Brewery**, **KC's** and **The Boardroom**. Need more? Head into nearby Destin where you'll find a bevy of dives and cozy bars like **Lucky's Rotten Apple**, **The Red Door Saloon** and **Duck Duck**.

HarborWalk Street Party. If you do end up in Destin, be sure to hit the Harbor where they'll wrap 2016 with none other than a street party. Think

about it. How often do you get to go to a street party in the land of overrun streets and jam-packed traffic snarls? Flow Tribe kicks off the party at 7 p.m., followed by the Journey cover band Departure at 10.

But wait, there's more. 2016 will go out with a bang, literally, with two fireworks shows, the first at 8 and a midnight finale featuring a sparkly ball drop. Admission is FREE.

Dave and Buster's, Pier Park, Panama City Beach. If barhopping isn't your scene but gaming is, D&B is the place to be on New Year's Eve. Up for grabs are a couple of sweet package deals starting at \$47.99 that include dinner and dessert buffets, gaming "power cards," college football on the tube and reserved VIP seating for an optimal view of Pier Park's ball drop. You can upgrade the package to include a drink ticket, or just belly up to the bar on your own.

If you fancy yourself a honky tonk woman or man, Pier Park is also where you'll find the one and only sister location of the world famous **Tootsies**. And it's the only place in the Panhandle with a weather forecast of snow. But it's Pier Park, not Mother Nature, that is once again bringing snow to the beach for the holidays.

Mardi Gras Ball, The Village Door, Baytowne Wharf. Owner John Wehner isn't going to Bourbon Street for New Year's Eve, he's bringing it to Baytowne. The Village Door will welcome 2017 New Orleans style by hosting a Mardi Gras ball, complete with live music and light-up beads. The \$25 cover charge



gets you FREE drinks from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. and a champagne toast at midnight.

Head east to **The Red Bar** in Grayton Beach, which has a longtime reputation for putting the happy in New Year's (and just about every other day of the year, too). Nearby is newcomer **Chiringo**, fast becoming a preferred gathering spot for its cheerful ambience and food and drinks with Spanish flair.

Grande Gala, Emerald Grande. Trade your flip-flops for heels and your tees for ties, and make like Cinderella and Prince Charming. For a price that starts at \$125 plus tax, you'll be given the royal treatment with a chef-selected dinner, dancing to live music, and a champagne toast at midnight. The glorious view you'll have of the ball dropping over the moonlit Destin Harbor is, of course, priceless.

Restaurant Guide

If your favorite restaurant isn't listed here, let us know by dropping an email to us at chris@beachcomberdestin.com!

AMERICAN

CALLAHAN'S A long-time favorite of Destin locals, Callahan's Restaurant & Deli lives up to its name, offering one of the town's most varied selections of deli sandwiches, salads, and full-on meals, with everything from quiche to barbecue. Steaks and chops are a perennial favorite, along with comforting meals of pot roast, prime rib, seafood platters, and some fancier regular and special items. Lunch and dinner; beer, wine and mixed drinks, \$3-20. 791 Harbor Blvd., Destin, 850-837-6328/837-7171. www.callahansdestin.com. www.facebook.com/callahansdestin.

CHARLIE'S BURGER BAR Destin's first true burger bar has it all - Burgers, Bourbon and Beer! Charlie's has a selection of 17 different burgers from lamb, Black Angus, wild boar, bison, even Ostrich. If you don't want one of the already built burgers, make your own. Select the bun you would like, than the protein, pick your cheese and your sides. The soon to be famous deep fried pickles are to die for. Or live a little and go for Charlie's Funky Fries topped with different types of cheeses. Happy hour daily from 3-6 p.m. Open at 3 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. \$3-32, HarborWalk Village, Destin, inside the Crab Island Cantina Complex, 850-424-7695. www.CharliesBurgerBar.com.

HOOTERS Wings, shrimp, burgers and more. Open 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Sun.-Thu., 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Fri. and Sat. Happy hour Mon.-Fri., 3-6 p.m. and 9 p.m.-close. 15015 Emerald Coast Parkway, Destin, 850-654-1007. hootersonline.com.

ASIAN

LIN'S ASIAN CUISINE Enjoy carefully prepared and artfully served Chinese and Southeast Asian dishes in a pleasant and welcoming atmosphere. Chicken, beef, pork, duck, fish and shellfish are cooked to suit most tastes, and Lin's offers your favorites—General Tso's chicken, Mongolian beef, pad thai, lo mein and kung pao, among many others. Beer and wine. \$2-15. 130 Scenic Gulf Dr. #5B, Miramar Beach, 850-424-5888.

BARBEQUE

LILLIE'S Q Award-winning on the national level barbecue restaurant located at 9848 Hwy. 98 W., Miramar Beach, approximately seven miles east of the Mid Bay Bridge. We offer barbecue that represents all areas of the U.S., such as pulled pork, baby back ribs, smoked

chicken breast and beef tri-tip (sliced sirloin). All meat products are slow smoked using natural wood and lump charcoal. Seven sauce choices with delicious side orders and the best banana pudding in the Panhandle. We offer a wrap around porch. No inside seating. Hours: Tue.-Sat., 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Call ahead orders welcomed! 850-654-3911.

BREAKFAST & MORE

ANOTHER BROKEN EGG CAFÉ is the Emerald Coast's premier breakfast, brunch and lunch destination. Sip on one of our award-winning, house infused Bloody Marys while you dine on breakfast classics, memorable brunch dishes or lunchtime favorites. Grand Boulevard – 755 Grand Boulevard, Suite B-107, Miramar Beach, 850-424-3416. Sandestin – 9100 Baytowne Wharf Boulevard, Suite A-4, 850-622-2050. www.anotherbrokenegg.com.

ASIAGO'S SKILLET There's no place like it. Open daily from midnight till noon. Try your hand at our one-of-a-kind Crab Cake Benny, mouth watering Bananas Foster French Toast or our classic American Breakfast. We've got something for everyone. Plus, don't miss out on our Build Your Own Bloody Mary Bar, complete with infused vodkas, every weekend. Truly breakfast at its best. 110 Amberjack Drive, Okaloosa Island, 850-586-7998. New location in Destin! 300 Harbor Blvd., 850-424-4160. www.facebook.com/asiago.skillet.

BLUE COLLAR CAFE Made to order breakfast and lunch served all day. House made bagels. Full coffee bar with Maas coffee and espresso roasted at the cafe. Home of the famous BOB (breakfast on a bagel) and New York style lox and house-mixed cream cheese. Salads and sides, homemade scones and sweets. Open Mon.-Fri., 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. 104 Hollywood Blvd. SW, Fort Walton Beach.

THE BREAKFAST TABLE Locally owned and operated. From 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. enjoy a full service breakfast of eggs your way or omelets and sides, pancakes or waffles, Eggs Benedict in various tasty styles (crab cake, salmon or Sardou), Breakfast Sundae or a Granna B's Bullseye and more. Add a Bloody Mary or Mimosa. Lunch starts at 11 and offers a variety of hot or cold deli sandwiches (Boar's Head meats and cheeses), homemade soups and daily specials. Beer and wine. Call 850-460-7322 for reservations or visit thebreakfasttabledestin.com.

THE DONUT HOLE Breakfast, donuts, sandwiches, salads, burgers and more. 635 U.S. 98 E, Destin, 850-837-8824.

THE DONUT HOLE 6745 U.S. 98 W, Santa Rosa Beach, 850-267-3239.

THE DONUT HOLE 12983 U.S. 98 E, Inlet Beach, 850-213-3127.

THE LOCAL MARKET Open 7 a.m.-3 p.m. daily. Fresh pressed juices, coffee, breakfast, gourmet sandwiches, homemade ice cream and more. 950 Gulf Shore Drive, Destin, 850-460-8979.

THE PANCAKERY Serving breakfast and lunch daily from 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. Featuring build your own pancakes and omelettes! Waffles, French Toast, crepes, benedicts, bananas foster and all traditional breakfast items. Also, lunch menu includes sandwiches, burgers, salads, wraps, and loaded potatoes. Now serving bloody marys, mimosas and cold beer. 960 Hwy 98 East, Suite 104, Destin. 850-269-0791.

TOMMY MATTONIE'S Looking for upscale breakfast options? We offer 13 different Eggs Benedicts and numerous specialty waffles. Trip Advisor honored us with a Certificate of Excellence for 2015. Our list of New Orleans style po-boys for lunch is just as extensive as the Eggs Benedict selections. We serve only local fresh bay shrimp and offer some of the best slow smoked BBQ in FWB. We also serve salads, Floribbean tacos, soups and daily specials. Check Facebook for our daily specials. Open 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. every day except Mondays. Located at 723 Eglin Parkway NE in FWB near the Shalimar Bridge. 850-862-0895. www.tommymattonies.com.

BURGERS

CHARLIE'S BURGER BAR Burgers, bourbon and beer. Pick from 18 burgers or build your own. Over 50 beers and bourbons, funky French fries, milk shakes for all ages. Located at 2 Harbor Blvd. in HarborWalk Village's Crab Island Cantina Complex, Destin, 850-424-7695.

CASUAL DINING

FUDPUCKER'S BEACHSIDE BAR & GRILL – DESTIN Find out why Fudpucker's is #1 for food and fun. Offering great food, live alligators and world famous t-shirts in a fun-filled family atmosphere since 1982. Family entertainment nightly with **The Fudnominals** interactive dance team, Teen Night every

Wednesday and Thursday, and live music every Saturday with the best special in town. Download the Fud app for daily deals on food, drinks and merchandise. 20001 Emerald Coast Parkway across from Henderson Beach State Park. Call 850-654-4200 or visit us at www.fudpucker.com.

HOG'S BREATH CAFE A local favorite located in the heart of Destin, Hog's Breath offers a varied menu selection, from seafood tacos to BBQ platters. Sit inside or enjoy the beautiful Emerald Coast weather, all while listening to live local entertainment. Fun for the entire family. Open daily, 11 a.m. until 2 a.m. 541 Harbor Blvd., Destin, 850-837-5991. "Hog's Breath is better than no breath at all!" www.hogsbreath.com/destin.

CATERING

BIG RED TRUCK Specializing in private events and full service catering. 850-737-1185. www.destinfoodtrucks.com.

COFFEE SHOPS

MAAS COFFEE ROASTERS Fresh roasted beans of origin, roasted in different profiles. Specialty coffee roasters for 10 years. "Once you go Maas, you'll never go 'Bucks!" Fresh made pastries and bagels, FREE WiFi. Open Mon.-Sat., 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 150 Miracle Strip Parkway, Fort Walton Beach, across from the Indian Temple Mound Museum. 850-585-0496.


CONTEMPORARY

BUD & ALLEY'S This Seaside perennial just keeps getting better. Lunch and dinner daily, with a varying menu offering grilled, roasted, and sautéed fish and shellfish, quail, chicken, pork, and plenty of interesting accompaniments. Full bar, \$4-34. 2236 CR30A East, Seaside, 850-231-5900.

LOUIS LOUIS Louis Louis is another dining hit. This "sister" restaurant to the famous Red Bar offers a short but all-star menu of fish, chicken, pork, crab cakes and pasta entrees, served in fat portions by a friendly staff. Do whatever you have to do, but don't skip dessert. Colorful décor, comfy tables, full bar, \$5-25. 35 Mussett Bayou Rd., Santa Rosa Beach, 850-267-1500.

ECLECTIC

CAFÉ THIRTY-A Cafe Thirty-A has been here a while. Finding out why can be a delicious




Every Christmas Story Ever Told (and then some!)

THE REP

THE REPERTORY THEATER · SEASIDE, FL

"Wackiest, Tackiest and Happiest Holiday Event!"

- USA Today



Why go out to see another Christmas Carol, The Nutcracker, and watch It's a Wonderful Life on TV when you can see all 3 (and many more) in one 90 minute show? The REP's 7 year smash hit Every Christmas Story Ever Told returns with all of your favorite "Beloved Holiday Classics" crammed into a show full of high-energy jolly, frivolity, and hilarity. It's the perfect way to get ready for the season, beat the festive fatigue, and share some holiday cheer!

Catch all of the holiday fun through December 29th at 2:00PM & 7:30PM

For showtimes and tickets, visit LoveTheREP.com

Restaurant Guide

experience. A nightly-changing menu offers steaks, chicken, pork, lamb, and local seafood elegantly prepared with imaginative sauces and sides, courteously served in a beautiful beach-house a.m.sphere. Lobster bisque, stone crab claws, seasonal fish and shellfish, and wood oven-baked pizzas. Full bar. \$8-36. 3899 E. Scenic Highway 30-A, Seagrove Beach, 850-231-2166.

THE RED BAR The place to go—and say you went—in Grayton Beach. The Red Bar offers breakfast, lunch and dinner, with a short but expertly prepared menu of sandwiches, soup and salads for lunch, chicken, local fish, pasta and crab cakes for dinner. The apple dumpling will haunt you, in a good way. Live music, and more local color than you'll know what to do with. Full bar, \$4-21.

70 Hotz Avenue, Grayton Beach, 850-231-1008. www.theredbar.com.

VIN'TIJ Wine boutique and bistro. Wonderful food, service and a.m.sphere. Great approach to wine service offering Flight or tasters of unique varietals. Open daily for lunch or dinner plus a well stocked retail wine shop. \$5-19, 10859 Emerald Coast Pkwy, Destin, 650-9820.

FOOD TRUCKS

BIG RED TRUCK Gulf to table certified seafood, fresh fish tacos, high end comfort food on the move. We specialize in private events and full service catering. Daily specials and locations on Facebook. 850-737-1185. www.destinfoodtrucks.com.

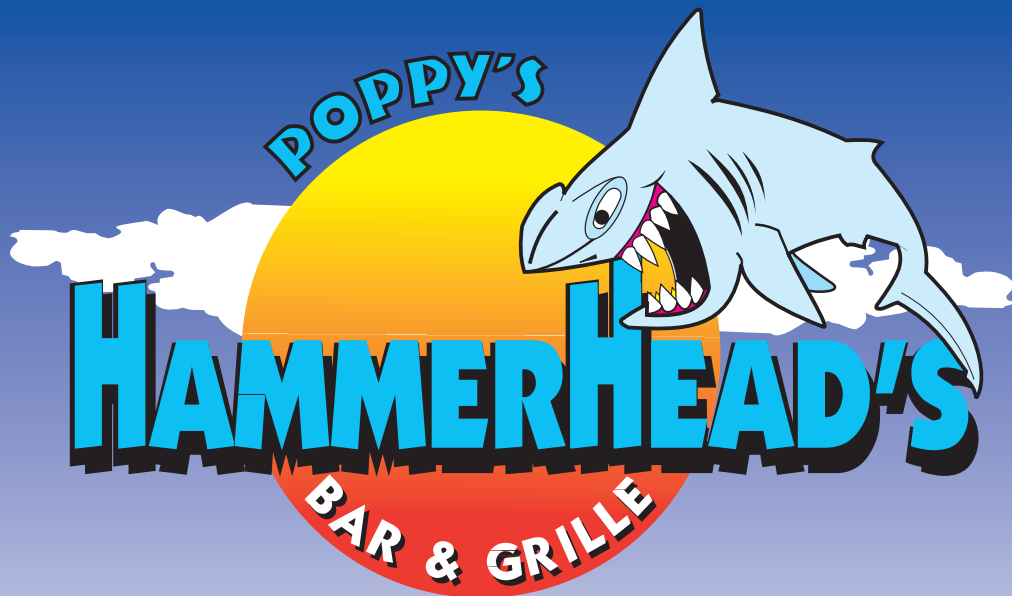
GERMAN/AMERICAN

FOKKERS PUB German sausages and homemade schnitzels go great with German beer! Brick oven pizza, grilled or fried wings, burgers, sandwiches and salad bar – there's something for everyone! Live music Wednesdays and Fridays. Located at 215 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE Unit #1 in Downtown Fort Walton Beach. 850-244-6666.

HEALTHY DINING

GEORGE'S AT ALYS BEACH Established in 2008, George's has offered regional coastal fare infused with global flavors to the quaint town of Alys Beach. We craft all of our dishes using locally sourced organic produce and the freshest seafood available, and present each

with a generous helping of love. Our dishes fall into two categories—Behave and Misbehave. The Behave section features organic, spa-inspired dishes, while the Misbehave side touts traditional beach fare like fried seafood baskets and po-boys. The menu is rounded out with a thoughtfully curated wine list and a selection of decadent desserts. Our charming beach cottage provides the perfect backdrop for a casual dinner with friends and family. Dine indoors in our airy yet cozy dining room, or soak in the beautiful Florida sunshine on our front deck or screened porches. Open 11 a.-3 p.m. and 5-9 p.m. 30 Castle Harbour Dr., Panama City Beach, 850-641-0017, georgesatalysbeach.net.



Featuring Char-Grilled Oysters, Steamed Seafood Buckets, Gourmet Burgers, Louisiana Style Po-Boys, Pastas, Fried Seafood Platters, and Raw Oysters on the Half Shell.

Two full service bars serving up a large selection of signature cocktails and ice cold beer.

HAMMERHEAD'S
is *the* place to enjoy live music and great family fun
in the Village of Baytowne Wharf.

Open 7 days a week 11 AM – until the fun stops.

Call us at 850-351-1997

Book your private party by email at PRG@tumulo.com

Visit us online at www.hammerheadsbarandgrille.com



Restaurant Guide

IRISH

JOHNNY MCTIGHE'S Ireland on Scenic 30-A, a unique outpost of food and drink in Santa Rosa Beach. McTighe's opens at 11 a.m. and closes at 2 a.m. the next day. In between, the all-day menu offers an Irish grand slam of a breakfast, fish and chips, wings, pizza, and an array of hearty sandwiches, including Irish reuben, Philly cheese steak, burgers, chicken and hot dogs. There's even Maine lobster bisque. Full bar, \$4-21. 2298 Scenic Highway 30-A West, Santa Rosa Beach, 850-267-0101. www.johnnymctighesirishpub.com.

ITALIAN

LA FAMIGLIA ON THE HARBOR Famous classic family recipes served by the generations that have perfected them together, paired with a diverse wine list. Dine overlooking the beautiful

sunsets over the Destin Bridge and East Pass. Open 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Happy hour daily, 3-6 p.m. 2 Harbor Blvd., Suite 200, Destin, 850-424-7441. www.lafamigliadestin.com.

TUSCANY ITALIAN BISTRO Authentic Italian cuisine includes pasta, freshest seafood, tender veal and more. A true taste of Italy--beautiful Italian decor with handpainted murals. Live Entertainment by Eclipse (Don and Amanda), Special Happy Hour from 5-8. 36178 Emerald Coast Pkwy. Next to City Market in Destin. 850-650-2451.

LATIN / MEXICAN

CRAB ISLAND CANTINA Traditional and not so traditional Mexican and Latin food, featuring snapper enchiladas, grouper tacos, and award-winning seafood chorizo gumbo. Great selection of seafood dishes and Black Angus

steaks, and all are big portions so make sure you're hungry. Spacious dining area, multiple bars, even a fountain, plus the view of Destin Bridge and the East Pass. Full bar, wide choice of margaritas and beers, \$4-28, HarborWalk Village, Destin, inside the Crab Island Cantina Complex. 850-424-7417. www.CrabIslandCantina.com.

LA COCINA MEXICAN GRILL & BAR Since 2009, La Cocina has served traditional Tex-Mex fare with a coastal twist in a fun, festive atmosphere. We prepare all of our dishes from scratch using the freshest ingredients available. La Cocina is nestled between Rosemary Beach and Alys Beach in Seacrest Beach. Menu highlights include Tacos de Camerones with grilled shrimp, shredded lettuce, habanero pickled onions and feta cheese; the Pollo Fundido with shredded chicken and sour cream (chimichanga style) topped with cheese; and the Lobster Quesadilla with lobster, crab, shrimp and cheese topped with chipotle aioli and fruit salsa. Saturdays and Sundays, enjoy \$7 specialty cocktails during football season. Open 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and 5-9 p.m. 10343 East CR-30A, Panama City Beach, 850-231-4021, lacocina30a.net.

LA PAZ offers just about anything you'd want from a Mexican-Southwestern kitchen, including tamales, tacos, fajitas, burritos, enchiladas and quesadillas, plus a thoughtfully prepared list of grilled local fish and shellfish and imaginative spins on classics. Daily dinner specials, full bar. \$15-25. 950 Gulf Shore Drive, Destin, 850-837-2247. www.lapazdestin.com.

PEPITO'S MEXICAN GRILL An enormous menu, plenty of room, and a friendly staff make Pepito's a good bet for a Mexican snack or feast. Traditional and unusual fare includes carnitas, enchiladas, fajitas, vegetarian dishes, steaks and seafood specialties. \$4-19. 757 Harbor Blvd, Destin, 650-7734. Additional locations in Bluewater Bay and Fort Walton Beach. www.mypepitos.com.

PIZZA & PASTA

CRUST PIZZERIA We strive to make the very best pizza. We make our own dough and sauce and grate the finest whole milk mozzarella. We make our own meatballs, slice the Italian sweet sausages, chop the fresh vegetables, then assemble your pizza just for you and bake it to perfection in a brick oven. Eat-in, takeout and delivery. Wine and craft beers. Open Mon.-Sat., 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sundays, 4-10 p.m. 104 Harbor Blvd., Destin, 850-460-2990. destincrustpizzeria.com.

CRUST PIZZERIA Pizza, calzones, pasta, salads, desserts and more made fresh. Wine and craft beers. Open 11 a.m.-9 p.m. daily. 433 Page Bacon Rd., Mary Esther, 850-737-2121.

CRUST PIZZERIA Pizza, calzones, pasta, salads, desserts and more made fresh. Wine and craft beers. Open 11 a.m.-9 p.m. daily. 1826 Lewis Turner Blvd., Fort Walton Beach, 850-737-2299.

LANDSHARK'S PIZZA Daily happy hour, 3-6 p.m. and full liquor bar plus award-winning pizza and wings. 360 Harbor Blvd., Destin, 850-460-6743. www.LandsharksPizza.com.

MELLOW MUSHROOM PIZZA BAKERY Widely, wildly assorted menu of stone baked pizzas, hoagies, calzones, salads, and specialty items. Pizzas traditional and exotic include pesto, jerk chicken, gourmet white, and Magical Mystery Tour. Colorful psychedelic décor and friendly service. \$4-25. 960 Hwy 98E, Sunsations Plaza, Destin, 650-6420.

REDBRICK PIZZA Fresh fire-roasted pizzas, phazany sandwiches and gourmet Italian gelato ice cream. We use only Qualita superior Italian cheeses and premium ingredients. Savor the passion of a century-old Italian tradition. Locations are Destin Commons next to Rave Motion Pictures, 850-424-5990; and Pier Park, Panama City Beach, 850-236-1413. Hours are Sun.-Thurs., 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Fri. and Sat., 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

ROBERTO'S PIZZERIA & SPORTS BAR Your neighborhood pizzeria with a sports bar twist, serving homemade pizza, pastas, calzones, gourmet burgers, wings, nachos and more. Full bar available, including awesome specialty cocktails. The Orange Crush is a must try! Choose from our 12 draft beer selections or enjoy wine by the glass. Indoor and outdoor seating. All day and evening deliveries in Sandestin Resort. Fifteen big-screen TVs, great food, and our amazing staff make it the best place in Sandestin to catch your favorite team. Located in the Village of Baytowne Wharf. Open seven days a week, 11 a.m. until... Call us at 850-351-1988. Booking a private party? Email prg@tumulo.com. www.robertositalianpizzeria.com.

SEAFOOD

THE BACK PORCH Experience open air dining with the best view of the Gulf of Mexico. Serving grouper, oysters, fried crab claws and our famous char-grilled amberjack. Lunch and dinner. Open daily from 11 a.m. 1740 Old Highway 98 East, Destin. On U.S. 98 across from the Track, turn at the Hampton Inn, drive about 1/4 mile, and you'll find us on the right side. www.theback-porch.com. 850-837-2022.

CAPT. DAVE'S ON THE GULF A tradition since 1977, Capt. Dave's is a go-to place for the kind of seafood that made this area famous. A time-tested selection of fried, grilled, and broiled fish, shellfish, steaks and chicken, with house and seasonal specialties. Full bar. \$5-25. 3796 Scenic Hwy 98, Destin, 850-837-2627.

GRANDE VISTA BAR & GRILL Located in the Emerald Grande. Open daily 7 a.m.-9 p.m. for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Grande Vista Bar & Grill has delicious local seafood, signature sandwiches and mouth-watering burgers. Enjoy casual or business lunch inside or poolside overlooking the Destin Harbor. Enjoy special drink prices inside or outside at our poolside bar. The view from our pool deck is simply breathtaking. Half-priced drinks daily, 4-6 p.m. 10 Harbor Blvd., Destin, 850-337-8100 x1550. info@emeraldgrande.com.

HARBOR DOCKS on the historic Destin Harbor has been serving simply prepared Gulf to table seafood from its own market since 1979. Offering hearty breakfasts, a lunch menu featuring blue plate specials alongside authentic Thai dishes, and the area's best sushi by world famous Chef Yoshie Eddings. In addition to traditional Gulf seafood dishes, there is something for everyone. 538 Harbor Blvd., Destin, 850-837-2506. harbordocks.com.

HARRY T'S LIGHTHOUSE Located in HarborWalk Village right on the beautiful Destin Harbor, Harry T's has something for all ages! With entrees ranging from fresh local seafood to our gourmet hamburgers, there's something for everyone! Voted Best Place to Watch the Sunset four years in a row, our outside deck offers an unparalleled view of the Destin Harbor. Mega Happy Hour Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. 46 Harbor Blvd., Destin, 850-654-4800. info@harryts.co.

Chefs Up Close



Jack McGuckin
Bijoux Destin, Miramar Beach

FAVORITE TV COOKING SHOWS
The ones I watched growing up—Justin Wilson, Jacques Pepin, Julia Child.

CULINARY IDOLS
I wouldn't say I idolize anyone, but Emeril Lagasse is definitely an influence. I gain the most inspiration from cooking and talking with my great staff, current and past.

GUILTY PLEASURE
Chicken nuggets from McDonald's.

SIGNATURE DISH
It would have to be the often imitated but never duplicated cast iron seated filet mignon cooked in duck fat.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT
That would have to be marrying my best friend and the love of my life on December 12 of this year.

Restaurant Guide

LOCAL CATCH has established itself as a Hot Spot for fresh coastal cuisine with superior customer service. Dine in daily from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and enjoy Happy Hour Mon.-Fri., 3-5 p.m. Join us every Sunday for live music from 3 to 7 p.m. 3711 West Scenic Highway 30A, Santa Rosa Beach, 850-622-2022. www.localcatch30a.com.

OLD BAY STEAMER Wide variety of fresh steamed seafood served in every imaginable combination. Choose from crab, shrimp, lobster, oysters, clams, mussels, and fresh catch of the day. Pasta and steak/seafood pairings also offered. Friendly, efficient service. Open daily for dinner, with full bar. \$4-27, 102 Santa Rosa Blvd., Okaloosa Island, 664-2795.

ORIGINAL WATERFRONT CRAB SHACK Located on the water. The Crab Shack serves crab, shrimp, oysters, mussels, scallops and assorted local fish in an informal and family-friendly a.m.sphere. Crab steamer buckets, fried seafood baskets, sandwiches and po-boys, and some land-based items. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Daily specials, inside and outside dining. Full bar. \$3-45. 104 Miracle Strip Pkwy., Fort Walton Beach. 850-664-0345.

POMPANO JOE'S Come on in for some fun and fresh seafood with a very exciting flavor. Try our famous reggae rolls and our garlic crusted grouper! Lunch and dinner. Open daily from 11 a.m. 2237 Scenic Gulf Highway, Destin. Take Holiday Road South, turn right on scenic Hwy. 98, drive down

about two blocks, and you'll find us on the left side. www.pompano-joes.com. 850-837-2224.

SALTWATER GRILL We provide a relaxing, casual atmosphere designed to heighten the enjoyment of our customers' dining experience. Most of our tables have entertaining views of a 25,000-gallon aquarium filled with exotic fish. Become mesmerized by the soothing sounds of **Michael Rorah**, our singing pianist, who plays Tuesday through Saturday evenings. Lobsters available for viewing and choosing at the front of the restaurant. Open 4-10 p.m. 1100 Hutchinson Blvd., Panama City Beach, 850-230-2739, saltwatergrillpcb.com.

STINKY'S FISH CAMP Seafood is king at this informal Santa Rosa Beach eatery. Oysters "all ways," crawfish pie, catfish or frog legs meuniere, and gumbo are just a few of the Louisiana-inspired dishes. Service is friendly and attentive. Open daily 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Serving brunch on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Beer, wine and live music at Stinky's Bait Shack from 6 to 9 p.m. 5960 Scenic Highway 30A, Santa Rosa Beach, 850-267-3053.

STEAKS

MCGUIRE'S IRISH PUB OF DESTIN One of America's Great Steak Houses. Feasting, Imbibery and Debauchery. We are known for great food, exceptional service, our own craft brewed beers, and fun live entertainment. Open LATE, from 11 a.m. to 1:45 a.m. seven days a

week. 33 U.S. 98, Destin, 850-650-0000, www.mcguiresirishpub.com.

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE serves the finest aged, corn-fed USDA Prime beef. Broiled in a trademark 1,800° broiler and served on a plate heated to 500 degrees, your steak is presented sizzling hot at your table. Happy hour daily from 5 to 7 p.m. in any of our three bars, including the new East Bar. We boast an array of private event spaces, our own private billiard room, valet parking, and live entertainment five nights a week from *Billboard*-charting recording artist Michael J Thomas (upon availability). Open seven days a week at 5 p.m. For reservations, call 850-837-RUTH (7884) or visit www.RuthsChrisDestin.com.

SALTWATER GRILL Open 4-10 p.m. 1100 Hutchinson Blvd., Panama City Beach, 850-230-2739, saltwatergrillpcb.com.

SEAGAR'S PRIME STEAKS & SEAFOOD The area's first AAA 4-Diamond restaurant specializing in the finest prime beef and freshest seafood available. Private dining facilities and wine room with more than 800 labels. Features tableside preparations and live piano nightly. Reservations recommended. 622-1500. \$10-50, 4000 Sandestin Blvd., at the Hilton Sandestin. www.SeagarsDestin.com

SUSHI

JACKACUDAS SEAFOOD & SUSHI is a locally-owned seafood and sushi restaurant overlooking the historic Destin Harbor. The name derives from a famous fishing hole located 34 miles southwest of the Destin Harbor at 30°04.250N and 87°02.125W. Specializing in fresh, locally sourced seafood and products

to provide our guests with classic Gulf Coast seafood dishes with New South culinary preparation. Open daily, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. 56 Harbor Blvd., Destin, 850-424-3507. www.jackacudas.com.

OSAKA JAPANESE STEAKHOUSE AND SUSHI BAR 34745 Emerald Coast Pkwy, Destin, 650-4688.

OSAKA SUSHI ROCKS It's the little Sushi house on the Lagoon. Osaka Sushi Rocks offers an extensive list of sushi, sashimi, and rolls, both classic and regional specialties. Friendly, serene a.m.sphere. Tempura, noodles and teriyaki favorites also available. Wine and beer. \$4-50. 108 Cannery Lane, Village of Baytowne Wharf, 351-1006.

VKI JAPANESE STEAKHOUSE, SUSHI BAR & HIBACHI Serving authentic Japanese cuisine. Come in and enjoy fresh seafood, chicken, pork and beef cooked to suit most tastes. We offer Hibachi, Teriyaki, Tempura, Katsu, Japanese noodles and fresh Sushi. Beer, wine and sake. Happy hour, 4:40-6:30 p.m. Open seven days a week—lunch, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; dinner, 4:30-9:30 p.m. 4552 U.S. 98 Suite 1 & 2, Santa Rosa Beach, 850-267-2555. Gift certificates available.

TAPAS AND WINE

LA CREMA TAPAS AND CHOCOLATE Spanish-inspired tapas restaurant featuring unique tapas and Spanish wines. The European vibe provides a relaxing atmosphere where we encourage guests to share dishes, converse and enjoy Rosemary Beach living. Open 11 a.m.-9 p.m. 38 Main St., Rosemary Beach, 850-624-7282, lacrematapas.com.

Bartender of the Issue



Kevin Burke
Hog's Breath Saloon, Destin

We can't remember a time when we didn't see Kevin pouring at our favorite drinking spot, but it turns out the guy's only been there since April 2013. Before that, he lived in Orlando and "fixed problems" for the TGIFriday's chain.

He says the most popular libation at the Breath is the Running Hog, a variation on the Rum Runner. Kevin's own go-to drink is Jim Beam and Coke. One thing his time behind bars has taught him is "how to be more patient with people."

Hobbies include barhopping (can probably write that off as research on your 1040, Kev), movies, the beach ("anything outdoors"), camping, and four-wheeling up in Alabama.

This Christmas, he'll travel back to Orlando to spend some time with his mom and the rest of the family. But come New Year's Eve, you'll likely find him working (and playing) hard, to the delight of the Hog's Breath regulars.

Kevin's wish for 2017? "A better year than 2016," he says soberly. "It can always be better."

- Chris Manson

OPENING DECEMBER 31ST!

Celebrate the New Year at

BELLA SERA

BISTRO

Destin's Newest Italian Bistro

Come and enjoy homemade Italian recipes as you dine overlooking the Destin Harbor at HarborWalk Village

Now taking New Year's Eve Reservations

Seating 1 5pm till fireworks at 8 pm

Seating 2 9pm till fireworks at midnight

\$49⁹⁹ per person
includes three course dinner
& champagne toast

Call 850-424-6425 for Reservations
2 Harbor Boulevard, Destin
(above Crab Island Cantina)

Restaurant Guide

WATERFRONT DINING

CRAB ISLAND CANTINA Traditional and not so traditional Mexican and Latin food, featuring snapper enchiladas, grouper tacos, and award-winning seafood chorizo gumbo. Great selection of seafood dishes and Black Angus steaks, and all are big portions so make sure you’re hungry. Spacious dining area, multiple bars, even a fountain, plus the view of Destin Bridge and the East Pass. Full bar, wide choice of margaritas and beers, \$4-28, HarborWalk Village, Destin, inside the Crab Island Cantina Complex. 850-424-7417. **www.CrabIslandCantina.com.**

FUDPUCKER’S BEACHSIDE BAR & GRILL – OKALOOSA ISLAND Find out why Fudpucker’s is #1 for food and fun. Offering great food, live alligators and world famous t-shirts since 1982. Our waterfront location across from the Ramada Plaza has it all—visit **Fat Daddy’s Arcade, Escape Zone 60** and **Fudpucker’s Watersports**, where you can rent a jet ski, paddleboard or pontoon boat. You’ll also find charter boats, the “Puc Dat” airboat and the Cattywampus Catamaran on our docks at Bayside Marina. 1318 Miracle Strip Parkway. Call 850-243-3833 or visit us at **www.fudpucker.com.**

HAMMERHEAD’S Party to live music and sunsets on the open deck overlooking the Bay. Featuring char-grilled oysters, steamed seafood buckets, gourmet burgers, grouper tacos, Louisiana-style po’boys, fried seafood platters and raw oysters on the half shell. Two full service bars serving up a large selection of signature cocktails. You have to try the Hammer! Hammerhead’s is *the* place to enjoy fantastic food and great family fun in the Village of Baytowne Wharf. Open seven days a week, 11 a.m. until the party stops. Call us at 850-351-1997. Booking a private party? Email **prg@tumulo.com.** **www.hammerheadsbarandgrille.com.**

JIMMY BUFFETT’S MARGARITAVILLE From a volcano flowing with Margaritas to suspended airplanes, Margaritaville is more than a restaurant; it’s a state of mind. Open daily, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Five O’Clock Somewhere celebration Mon.-Thu., 4-7 p.m. 76 Harbor Blvd., Destin, 850-460-7700. **www.margaritavilledestin.com.**

LUCY BUFFETT’S LULU’S DESTIN is located next to the Mid Bay Bridge and Legendary Marine on the Choctawhatchee Bay in beautiful Destin, Florida. A little off the beaten path, but we like a little more room to breathe. Specializing in the BEST Burgers in Paradise, Southern Favorites and Lucy’s own GUMBO LOVE! Family friendly! Come by boat, anchor and wade in or call for our boat shuttle. Open daily at 11 a.m. Live music nightly. Separate allergy menu. Beach for the kids to play, Fountain of Youth, LuLu’s Gift Shop. 850-710-LULU (5858). **www.lulubuffett.com/destin.**

VUE ON 30A showcases one of the best views for dining in all of South Walton. Open to the public and serving lunch, dinner, happy hour and Sunday brunch. Named “Best Restaurant of 2014” by *The Beachcomber*, Vue on 30a offers the ultimate dining experience. Open for Sunday brunch, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; lunch Tue.-Sat., 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; happy hour Tue.-Sat., 3-6 p.m.; dinner Tue.-Sat., 4:30-8:30 p.m. Two for one entrée specials Wed.-Sat., 4:30-6 p.m. 4801 Scenic Highway 30A, Santa Rosa Beach, 850-267-2305. **www.Vueon30a.com.**

WINE BARS

45 CENTRAL WINE BAR Tucked away in Seaside’s bustling Central Square, 45 Central offers a calm and relaxing atmosphere perfect for unwinding after a busy vacation day or a long day at work. Over 45 different wines available by the glass, bottle or case. Exclusive vintages sold by the glass using Coravin Wine Technology. Small plates of seasonal and regional pairings created daily by award-winning chef and owner **Jim Shirley**. Check us out online for wine classes, events and specials at **fortyfivecentral.com.** 45 Central Square, Seaside, 850-231-4545. Open 2 p.m.-midnight seven days a week.

Where to Spend Your Happy Hours in Beachcomberland

*If your bar isn’t listed here, you need to email **chris@beachcomberdestin.com** immediately!*

THE BEACH HOUSE
4009 S. Sandestin Blvd., Miramar Beach
850-608-6300
RelaxDrinkEat.com
When: 4-7 p.m. daily.
Drink Specials: \$4 Bud Light on tap and house wine, \$5 well drinks, \$6 food menu.

CRAB ISLAND CANTINA
HarborWalk Village, Destin
850-424-7417
When: Everyday from 3 to 6 p.m.
Drink Specials: \$4 house margaritas, \$3 well drinks and house wine, \$3 Corona, Corona Light, Bud Light and Miller Lite.

THE DOWN UNDER BAR
Fudpucker’s, Destin
downunderbardestin.com
When: Tuesday through Saturday, 6-9 p.m.
Drink Specials: Two for one drinks and \$3 martinis.

FISHHEADS
HarborWalk Village, Destin
When: 6-8 p.m. daily.
Drink Specials: \$1 off premium drafts and Drink of the Day.

FOKKER’S PUB
215 Miracle Strip Parkway SE Unit #1, Fort Walton Beach
850-244-6666
When: 3-7 p.m. daily; 3 p.m.-close Tuesdays.
Drink Specials: Everything half price except Bushwhackers and high end bourbons.

45 CENTRAL WINE BAR
45 Central Square, Seaside
850-231-4545
fortyfivecentral.com
When: 4-6 p.m. daily. Paella nights Wednesdays and Fridays.
Drink Specials: Half off wine by the glass, \$1 off beer.

FUDPUCKER’S BEACHSIDE BAR & GRILL
20001 Emerald Coast Parkway, Destin
850-654-4200
When: All day long.
Drink Specials: Smirnoff martinis \$4.99 all day every day. World Famous Fudpucker Punch \$5.99, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Daily deals with download of the Fud app.

FUDPUCKER’S BEACHSIDE BAR & GRILL
1318 Miracle Strip Parkway, Okaloosa Island
When: All day long.
Drink Specials: Smirnoff martinis \$4.99 all day every day. World Famous Fudpucker Punch \$5.99, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Daily deals with download of the Fud app.

GRANDE VISTA
Emerald Grande, HarborWalk Village, Destin
850-337-8100, ext. 1550
When: 4-6 p.m. daily.
Drink Specials: All drinks half off (except bottles of wine and Drink Special of the Day), plus specially priced apps.



Original art by Angie Boling.

HARRY T’S
HarborWalk Village, Destin
850-654-4800
When: Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m.-7 p.m.—downstairs bar only.
Drink Specials: Half off drinks.

HOG’S BREATH SALOON
541 Harbor Blvd., Destin
850-837-5991
When: 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and 10 p.m. to close, Mon.-Fri.
Drink Specials: Half off wells and calls, \$1 Bud Light draft, \$1 off domestic beer and wines.

JACKACUDAS
HarborWalk Village, Destin
850-424-3507
When: Monday-Friday, 3-6 p.m. Sushi bar and bar area only. Bonzai Wednesdays, 6 p.m.-close with half price sake, house wine, apps and sushi rolls.
Drink Specials: Half-price hot sake carafes, house wine pours, select draft beers and select apps, plus \$5 California rolls, spicy krab rolls and crunch salmon rolls.

JIMMY BUFFETT’S MARGARITAVILLE
HarborWalk Village, Destin
850-460-7700
When: Monday-Friday, 10 p.m.-close.
Drink Specials: \$3 14-ounce Bud Light or Landshark draft, \$4 Barefoot cabernet and chardonnay, \$5 “Who’s to Blame” margaritas and “5 O’Clock Somewhere” cocktails.

LA FAMIGLIA
HarborWalk Village, Destin
850-424-7441
When: 3-6 p.m. daily.
Drink Specials: \$4 wine, plus \$5 margaritas and martinis.

LANDSHARK’S PIZZA
300 Harbor Blvd., Destin
850-424-6743

When: 3-6 p.m. daily.
Drink Specials: \$1 off well drinks, \$2.25 domestic drafts and bottles, \$4 wine.

LA PAZ
950 Gulf Shore Drive, Destin
850-837-2247
When: 4-6 p.m. daily.
Drink Specials: \$5 top shelf Margaritas, FREE chips and salsa.

LUCY BUFFETT’S LULU’S
4607 Legendary Marina Drive, Destin
850-710-LULU (5858)
When: Monday-Friday, 3-6 p.m.
Drink Specials: \$2 select drafts, \$8 pitchers, \$3 glass house wines, \$4 rocks house Margaritas, \$6 frozen house Margaritas and Daiquiris.

RED DOOR SALOON
Destin
When: Mon.-Fri., 3-7 p.m., \$1 off beer, wine and wells. Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., two-for-one wells and beer.

SAMMY’S
1224 Santa Rosa Blvd., Fort Walton Beach
When: Early happy hour, 1-6 p.m. Late night happy hour, 2-4 a.m. Never a cover charge for escorted women, military, or restaurant-hotel-bar employees.
Drink Specials: Early happy hour—two for \$5 well drinks, \$10 buckets of beer, two-for-one shot specials, no cover charge. Late night happy hour—two for \$6 well drinks, \$12 buckets of beer, two-for-one shot specials, no cover charge after 3 a.m.

VUE ON 30A
4801 West County Highway 30A, Santa Rosa Beach
850-267-2305
When: Seven days a week, 3-6 p.m.
Drink Specials: \$5 house wine and discounts on well and call liquor and beer, plus up to 20 percent off select bar menu pricing.

Gaming – Old Is New Again and Hard to Find

By Nikki Hedrick

As videogames evolve with astounding graphics and complex story lines, nostalgia and collectors are driving an altogether different market.

In November, Nintendo released the NES Classic, a smaller version of the original Nintendo complete with 30 preloaded games. It sold out faster than anyone was prepared for, helping solidify that a growing, hungry market for older games and console systems exists.

Joe Alonzo, owner of Fort Walton Beach-based Rad Junk, understands the desire for classic video gaming better than most.

“It is driving sales of original hardware,” says Alonzo of the NES Classic. “Because the thing is so hard to find, the supply was so limited and demand was so high, and because people miss that tangibility of holding a cartridge in their hands, it has increased awareness and visibility of the retro market.”

It isn’t a cost prohibitive jump either, with stores like Alonzo’s sending customers out the door with the original Nintendo consoles and a couple extra games for under the \$100 price point.

The NES Classic isn’t the only animal that created an additional drive towards retro gaming in 2016. “I think the retro stuff was already gaining some momentum early this year, but when Pokémon Go came out...I have never seen anything go as crazy as that did.” Alonzo shares that everyone seemed to want to “catch them all,” from casual players to longtime fans of the franchise. He dubs it “a revolving door of



Pokémon madness,” as demand for older Pokémon games continues to rise.

Retro stores like Rad Junk offer additional services—replacing pin connectors and cleaning both consoles and games to prolong their life spans. “We are dealing with a finite supply,” he says.

Alonzo is also quick to dispel the myth that blowing into a cartridge is a good idea, as it can cause buildup on the metal connectors and affect a game’s ability to play properly in the long run.

As some games become rare, their prices are driven up and fakes begin to appear on the market. “From a collector’s standpoint you want the real deal. You want the real cartridge. Some of the games are getting really pricy, so we are seeing an influx of those higher end titles being reproduced heavily.”

But Alonzo isn’t necessarily opposed to reproductions of hard-to-find titles, “If it is clearly labeled as a reproduction, I have no problem, because at the end of the day that’s what we all want to do. Just get our hands on games that we want to play and have fun.”

To spot a fake, Alonzo suggests looking for a difference in how the plastic feels. Reproductions often using cheaper materials. Labels can be another signal that a deal is too good to be true, with coloring or depth of the image missing the mark from the original printing.

“Ultimately, the best way to figure out you have a fake is to get a ‘game bit,’ a little screw driver that fits into the security bit on the back of cartridges,” says Alonzo. “Open it up and look at the board and Google it. If there is any difference in the configuration, it is likely a fake.”

Rad Junk features consoles and games from the Odyssey 2000 (which birthed a tennis game that I’ll always refer to as Pong) to the latest generation of consoles like the PlayStation 4. They also carry a selection of videogame themed gifts, and host monthly trade nights and weekly retro gaming tournaments.

Learn more at radjunk.com.



The Bucket List

By Paula Hilton

It’s 2017 and time to pull out that pesky list of New Year’s Resolutions I made last year. You probably have the same list somewhere, right? Tucked safely away so you won’t lose it. Or look at it.

I did look at mine a few times this past year, and at one point got out a pen and started marking through things that I decided I really didn’t need to accomplish in 2016. I mean, why “clean out the filing cabinet in the garage”? The thing has been sitting there since 2002 with nothing but junk in it. It could certainly stay put another year or two.

The rest of the list wasn’t much better. “Lose 20 more pounds.” I’ve already lost 40, thank you very much. Let it be for goodness sakes.

“Learn how to use a power saw.” For lack of a better word, I suffer from power-saw-a-phobia. I’m terrified of power saws. There was no way I’d ever learn how to use one.

“Teach old dogs new tricks.” I adopted two adult dogs in July of 2015 and quickly realized they didn’t know any basic commands. *Sit!* I bark. They stare at me, standing. *Roll over,* I ask. More staring. *Quit barking!* No way. They were born to bark.

After taking a long look and realizing I really didn’t accomplish much in 2016, I decided to take a new approach. I turned 60 in 2015, and I noticed a lot of my friends were starting to talk about their “bucket lists.” Maybe I should make a bucket list instead of a list of New Year’s resolutions. That sounded like more fun anyway, so I started my list.

Or thought I was going to start my list. I couldn’t think of anything to put down. I’m afraid of heights so all those things like “jump out of an airplane,” “go parasailing” or “visit Mars” that other people put on their lists weren’t really feasible. I’ve already sung in front of 10,000 people, been on TV and written a book. I know how to sew, crotchet and play the clarinet, so I probably don’t need to learn another instrument.

But I could learn another language. I’ve always thought French was quite lovely. And maybe take a serious painting class. And go to the beach.

Wait a minute. Where did that come from? Go to the beach? I live in Beachcomberland, with the most beautiful beaches in the world. But when is the last time I went to the beach? It might have been before I moved here in 2002. Back then, every time we came out for a visit, we spent days and days at the beach.

But since moving here, I just float around in my pool, or go out on my sister’s 40-foot pontoon where we enjoy the water but we don’t “go to the beach.”

I looked at the other stuff on my bucket list. You know, I doubt I could learn a new language *or* how to paint. I am, after all, an old dog, and you really can’t teach an old dog new tricks. But go to the beach here on the beautiful Emerald Coast? Now that’s something I can get behind. Our beautiful warm weather will be back in just a few short months. Maybe I will work on taking a few more pounds off, then hit the beach in style.

Happy New Year, everyone!

Commentary CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

It’s unclear whether it was Pitbull or tourism officials who demanded that his contract fee remain confidential. Labeling it “proprietary” undoubtedly irked lawmakers such as Corcoran, already skeptical of Visit Florida’s budget.

After Pitbull signed on, he went right to work. His promotional efforts included a hype-rich Miami Beach video for his “Sexy Beaches” single, and a live concert from Bayfront Park for a national TV audience on New Year’s Eve.

Over several months, he also posted Visit Florida’s LoveFL hashtag on Twitter and Instagram. According to the Orlando *Sentinel*, the rap star promoted sun and fun in Florida 17 times to his

many millions of followers on social media.

When Visit Florida’s Secombe raved about Pitbull’s tourism impact, he used Trumpian extremes such as “huge,” “incredible” and “extraordinary.”

Those same words would probably also apply to the size of Pitbull’s paycheck. We don’t know for sure, because it’s a state secret.

Carl Hiaasen is a columnist for the Miami Herald. Readers may write to him at 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, FL 33132.

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FRESH SEAFOOD?



One of the first questions people ask when they visit our area is
“How can we be sure we’re getting fresh seafood?”

That’s an excellent question. There is a good chance that the seafood you will be offered traveled farther than you did. In the state of Florida, even though we are surrounded by water, more than 90% of the seafood sold this year will be imported from other countries.

Throughout the United States, the huge majority of seafood is imported. Most of it is mislabeled. Frozen seafood is sold as “fresh” and imported seafood is sold as “local.” According to Oceana, 93% of fish sold as red snapper is actually some other species. 57% of tuna sold at sushi bars throughout the country is not tuna. Most of the tilapia served in this country comes from Viet Nam and Thailand and much of it is farmed in waters with sewage run-off and the source of feed is pig feces.

Harbor Docks has been selling fish through its wholesale market since 1981. We sell to markets across the United States and Canada. We also sell to select restaurants along the Gulf Coast. Harbor Docks contracts with over 100 commercial boats to insure that we have an adequate supply of fresh fish.

We invite you to dine at our restaurants – Harbor Docks, in the heart of Destin, and Camille’s, overlooking the Gulf in Crystal Beach. But we’d also encourage you to try any of the wonderful, independent, local restaurants in our area that are committed to serving Florida seafood. We know who they are, because we sell them their fish.



Check our website to find out which restaurants sell certified Gulf-to-Table fish from Harbor Docks Seafood Market.

DESTIN, FL | 850.837.2506 | HARBORDOCKS.COM

Snapper and Tuna stats: <http://oceana.org/en/news-media/publications/reports/oceana-study-reveals-seafood-fraud-nationwide>
Imported seafood stat: http://www.fishwatch.gov/farmed_seafood/outside_the_us.htm
Tilapia/pig feces: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-10-11/asian-seafood-raised-on-pig-feces-approved-for-u-s-consumers.html>

NEW YEAR'S EVE EMERALD GRANDE AT HARBORWALK VILLAGE

3 VENUES 2 FIREWORKS SHOWS 1 BALL DROP

Grande Gala EMERALD GRANDE BALLROOM

8pm | Chef-Prepared Dinner | Live Music by Cool Rayz | Formal Attire | Champagne Toast & Party Favors

Fireworks 8pm & Midnight | Ball Drop Countdown

Tickets: 850-424-0622 | \$125 per person + service charge & tax | Cash Bar

Cocktails & Countdown HARBORVIEW ROOM

8pm | Heavy Hors D'ouvers Buffet | Music by DJ Zoran | Champagne Toast & Party Favors

Fireworks 8pm & Midnight | Ball Drop Countdown

Tickets: 850-424-0622 | \$55 per person + service charge & tax | Cash Bar

Street Party HARBORWALK VILLAGE

7pm | Free to the Public | Live Concert by Flow Tribe and Departure: The Journey Tribute Band

Fireworks 8pm & Midnight | Ball Drop Countdown

FREE PARKING | STAY & PLAY RATES AVAILABLE | ACCOMMODATIONS: 800-676-0091

UPCOMING *Winter Events*

SUNDAYS IN JANUARY WINTER GUEST CONCERT SERIES

Shake off the winter chills with live music on the main stage! All winter guests and locals are invited to enjoy a free live concert every Sunday afternoon from 2-4pm.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4 EMERALD COAST PARROT HEAD CHILI COOKOFF

The Emerald Coast Parrot Head Club hosts a fun and exciting Chili Cook-off on the Destin Harbor. Over 20 different restaurants and Chili Master's compete in this spirited cook-off starting at 11am.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24 MARDI GRAS PUB CRAWL

Wear your best Mardi Gras outfit and kick-off the weekend's events! At 7pm, enjoy drink specials at each stop and Let the Good Times Roll! Benefiting a local charity.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25 9TH ANNUAL MARDI GRAS PARADE

Celebrate with beads, dazzling floats, colorful costumes, street performers, and live music as the parade rolls along the Destin Harbor at 2pm. Free to attend! To participate in the parade, contact: rmagee@harborwalkvillage.com

HARBORWALK™
VILLAGE

Foot of the Destin Bridge Events Hotline: 850-424-0600 HarborWalkDestin.com

